

## MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH SENTENCING COUNCIL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

28 MARCH 2018, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, EDINBURGH

### MINUTES

**Members present:** Professor Neil Hutton (chair)  
Stephen O'Rourke  
Lord Turnbull  
Gillian Thomson, Justice of the Peace  
Sheriff Frank Crowe (committee advisor)

**Secretariat:** Andrew Bell (Principal Research Officer)  
Graham Ackerman (Secretary)

**Attendees:** Paul Bremner (Deputy Head, MIAT, SCTS)

#### 1. PROCEEDINGS

*Item 1.1: Introduction and welcome*

1) No apologies were received.

*Item 1.2: Minutes of previous meeting*

2) The Committee agreed the minutes of the previous meeting without amendment.

*Item 1.3: Private papers*

3) The Committee agreed that papers RC2.3, RC2.3A-F, RC3.1, RC3.1A and RC3.1B should be marked as private.

*Item 1.3: Remit [Oral, with reference to **RC1.4**]*

4) The Committee agreed to recommend the revised remit to the Council.

#### 2. EXTERNAL RESEARCH

*Item 2.1: R8 SGSSS PhD internships update [Oral]*

5) The Committee were updated on the most recent recruitment round of the SGSSS internship scheme.

*Item 2.2: Literature Review Procurement Update [Oral]*

- 6) The Committee were updated on the procurement exercises being undertaken for literature reviews on death by driving, environmental and wildlife offences, and sentencing young people.

*Item 2.3: 2018-19 Research priorities and projects [RC2.3 & RC2.3A-F]*

- 7) The Committee considered proposed research priorities and projects for the 2018/19 financial year.
- 8) Members agreed:
- a) To recommend research priorities, including order of priority, to the Council;
  - b) A suite of projects to be undertaken over the 2018/19 period;
  - c) To recommend two projects which have an estimated cost of over £25,000 to the full Council meeting in June for approval;
  - d) To consider detailed project plans and tender documents in due course for those projects where these are not provided; and
- 9) The Committee discussed possible projects utilising the available data from MIAT. Paul Bremner spoke to MIAT capabilities. The Committee agreed that further discussions should be taken forward by the Secretariat and MIAT in the first instance.

### **3: RESEARCH REPORTS**

*Item 3.1: R7 SGSSS PhD internship – final papers [Oral, with reference to RC3.1, RC3.1A and RC3.1B]*

- 10) The Committee noted the final papers from Will Smith's Ph.D. internship.

### **4: PROMOTING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING**

- 11) There were no items under this heading this meeting.

## **5: FUTURE MEETING DATES**

12) The Committee agreed to meet 4-6 weeks after the June Council meeting.

## **6: AOCB**

13) The Committee agreed the proposed text for the Annual Report.

**Scottish Sentencing Council Secretariat**

**March 2018**