

MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH SENTENCING COUNCIL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

23 JULY 2018, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, EDINBURGH

MINUTES

Members present: Professor Neil Hutton (chair)
Lord Turnbull
Gillian Thomson, Justice of the Peace

Apologies: Stephen O'Rourke
Sheriff Frank Crowe (committee advisor)

Secretariat: Andrew Bell (Principal Research Officer)
Dr Tasneem Irshad (temporary Research Officer)

1. PROCEEDINGS

Item 1.1: Introduction and welcome

- 1) Apologies were received from Stephen O'Rourke and Sheriff Crowe.

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 RC2.1A-B, RC2.2A, RC2.3A and RC3.1A-C should be marked as private.

Item 1.4: Re-appointment of advisor [Oral]

- 4) The Committee agreed to re-appoint Sheriff Crowe for a further two year period.

Item 1.5: Guideline specific research oversight [Oral]

- 5) The Committee agreed that content specific oversight of projects should be undertaken by the relevant guideline committee, subject to research committee oversight of outputs.

2. EXTERNAL RESEARCH

Item 2.1: SGSSS PhD internships update [Oral, with reference to papers RC2.1A and RC2.1B]

- 6) The Committee were given sight of the final outputs from the R8 SGSSS internship and provided some feedback.

Item 2.2: Procurement update [Oral, with reference to paper RC2.2A]

- 7) The Committee were updated on the progress of procurement exercises being undertaken and the delays encountered.

Item 2.3: 2018-19 research budget spend [Oral, with reference to RC2.3A]

- 8) The Committee were updated on the current research budget spend for 2019/20.

Item 2.4: SCTS system changes to record guideline compliance [Oral]

- 9) The Committee were updated on steps being taken to record departures from guidelines.

Item 2.3: Death by Driving judicial engagement update [Oral]

- 10) Dr Irshad updated the Committee on the progress of the death by driving judicial engagement project.

3: RESEARCH REPORTS

Item 3.1: Literature reviews – final papers for information [Oral, with reference to RC3.1A, RC3.1B and RC3.1C]

- 11) The Committee noted the final literature reviews for sentencing young people and death by driving offences and noted the draft literature review on environmental and wildlife offences.

4: PROMOTING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

Item 4.1: Future engagements – for information [Oral]

- 12) The Committee noted the forthcoming conferences that would be attended by members of the committee and the Principal Research Officer.

5: FUTURE MEETING DATES

13) The Committee agreed to meet in late September or early October.

6: AOCB

14) Lord Turnbull updated the committee on a meeting with academics from Monash University on the influence of media reporting on sentencing.

Scottish Sentencing Council Secretariat

July 2018