

## MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH SENTENCING COUNCIL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

26 SEPTEMBER 2018, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, EDINBURGH

### DRAFT MINUTES

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

**Apologies:** None.

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

#### 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 RC2.4 & RC2.6A should be marked as private.

#### 2. EXTERNAL RESEARCH

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

- 4) Andrew updated the Committee on the progress of the R9 recruitment round and informed the Committee that two candidates had been identified.

*Item 2.2: Procurement update [Oral]*

- 5) The Committee were updated on the progress of procurement exercises being undertaken and the delays encountered. The Committee expressed some concerns with the procurement process and discussed possible steps that could be taken to mitigate this in future.

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

- 6) Andrew updated the Committee on the final conclusions of the judicial engagement project on death by driving offences.

*Item 2.4: 2019-20 research priority areas and outline project plans [paper RC2.4]*

- 7) The Committee considered the proposed research priorities and projects for 2019/20.
- 8) The Committee agreed to recommend the research priorities to the Council without change.
- 9) The Committee agreed the majority of projects without changes, but noted that they were uncertain of the value of the proposed project on consistency. It was agreed that the secretariat would consider ways in which this could be brought to bear more directly on the Council's current work.
- 10) The Committee agreed to consider detailed project specifications in due course.

*Item 2.5: Sheriffdom business conferences 2018 [Oral]*

- 11) Andrew updated the Committee on the forthcoming shrieval engagement via the sheriffdom business conferences.

*Item 2.6: 2018-19 research budget spend [Oral, with reference to RC2.6A and RC2.4]*

- 12) Andrew updated the Committee on the current research budget spend.
- 13) The Committee agreed to bring forward two literature reviews originally agreed for 2019/20 into this financial year to utilise underspend, subject to clearance by correspondence or at future Council or Committee meetings.

### **3: RESEARCH REPORTS**

- 14) There were no items under this point.

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

*Item 4.1: New Questions, Methods, and Forms of Data in Sentencing Research symposium - Leeds [Oral]*

15) Andrew updated the Committee on his forthcoming attendance at a symposium at Leeds University.

#### **5: FUTURE MEETING DATES**

16) The Committee agreed to meet 4-6 weeks after the December Council meeting.

#### **6: AOCB**

17) There was no other business.

**Scottish Sentencing Council Secretariat**

**September 2018**