

## MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH SENTENCING COUNCIL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

18 SEPTEMBER 2019, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, EDINBURGH

### MINUTES

**Members present:** Professor Neil Hutton (chair)  
Susan Fallone, JP

**Apologies:** Stephen O'Rourke  
Lord Turnbull

**Secretariat:** Andrew Bell (Principal Research Officer)  
Ondine Tennant (Secretary)  
Julie Bordtkorb (Researcher)

#### 1. PROCEEDINGS

*Item 1.1: Introduction and welcome*

- 1) Apologies were received from Stephen O'Rourke and Lord Turnbull.
- 2) As the meeting was not quorate, the Committee agreed to consider the items before it and provide recommendations for consideration by correspondence, in line with paragraphs 9.6 and 9.6a of the Council's standing orders.

*Item 1.2: Minutes of previous meeting*

- 3) The Committee recommended that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed without amendment.

*Item 1.3: Private papers*

- 4) The Committee recommended that papers RC 2.2 and RC2.3 should be marked as private.

#### 2. EXTERNAL RESEARCH

*Item 2.1: Public perceptions – focus groups update [Oral]*

- 5) Andrew updated the Committee on the progress of the focus group projects exploring public perceptions of death by driving and sexual offences. Andrew noted initial drafts of the reports had been received and comments given to the contractors.

*Item 2.1: Sentencing young people – focus groups update [Oral]*

- 6) Andrew updated the Committee on the progress of the project to gather the opinions of young people on the sentencing of young people and noted the project was proceeding as planned.

*Item 2.1: Cognitive development review update [Oral]*

- 7) Andrew indicated that this was now commissioned and expected to be reporting back in draft form in mid-October.

*Item 2.1: Sentencing of indecent images and death by driving offences update [Oral]*

- 8) Andrew introduced Julie Bordtkorb who will be leading this project. Julie updated the committee on progress so far.

*Item 2.1: Sexual offences judicial engagement update [Oral]*

- 9) Andrew updated the committee on progress in recruiting a fixed term researcher to undertake this project.

*Item 2.2: : 2020/21 research priorities and plans [paper RC2.2]*

- 10) The Committee discussed the proposals in paper RC2.2 and were content to agree to these.

- 11) The Committee felt that the consistency project would have the highest priority if additional funding was agreed with Scottish Government.

- 12) Subject to agreement by correspondence, the Committee agreed to recommend that the research programme for 2020/21 to the Council in December 2019.

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

- 13) Andrew updated the Committee on the current research budget spend and noted that it was anticipated that the research programme would come in on budget.

### **3: RESEARCH REPORTS**

14) There were no items under this heading.

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

15) There were no items under this heading.

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

16) The Committee agreed to consider future meeting dates by correspondence once revised membership had been agreed by Council.

#### **6: AOCB**

17) Ondine updated the Committee on work underway to canvass shrieval opinions and experiences of community based disposals. The Committee agreed to provide feedback by correspondence.

**Scottish Sentencing Council Secretariat**

**October 2019**