

**MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH SENTENCING COUNCIL**  
**RESEARCH COMMITTEE**  
**28 February 2024, VIA TEAMS**  
**MINUTES**

**Members present:** Dr Hannah Graham (chair)

Sheriff Iain Fleming

**Apologies:** No apologies received

**Secretariat:** Ondine Tennant (secretary)

Nicole Vidal (interim principal research officer)

David Ross (principal policy officer)

Julie Duran (senior policy officer)

Tom Hughes (senior research officer)

Sheriff Louise Arrol KC

**1) Proceedings**

*Welcome and introductions*

- 1) Hannah Graham welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that no apologies had been received.
- 2) The Committee noted and agreed that Committee papers should be treated as private.

*Item 1.1: Minutes of previous meeting [paper 1.1]*

- 3) The Committee approved the draft minutes of the meeting of 06 November 2023.

*Item 1.2: Progress of actions since last meeting [paper 1.2]*

- 4) An update on actions from previous meeting was provided. The Committee noted the update.

## 2) RESEARCH PROJECTS

### *Item 2.1: Update on current projects*

- 5) Nicole Vidal provided an oral update on the progress of research projects currently underway. The Committee noted the update.

### *Item 2.2: Update on mental health and sentencing [papers 2.2, 2.2A]*

- 6) David Ross and Julie Duran provided an update in respect of the consideration of the results of the judicial survey on mental health and sentencing, the supplemental judicial interviews, and the intention for a report to be published in the coming months.
- 7) The Committee noted the updates and agreed a draft report would either be shared by correspondence in advance of the Council's upcoming meeting on 22 March, if possible, or would be put straight to the Council if it is not finalised in time to share with the Committee beforehand.

### **ACTION POINT**

**AP1: Secretariat to circulate a draft report to the Committee (if possible) and Council once finalised.**

### *Item 2.3: Collaborative PhD funding calls [papers 2.3, 2.3A]*

- 8) Ondine Tennant and Nicole Vidal provided an oral update on the proposal to collaborate on a joint supervisor-led PhD.
- 9) The Committee noted and considered the updated proposal provided in paper 2.3A. The Committee agreed to recommend the proposed topic to the Council.

### **ACTION POINT**

**AP2: Secretariat to recommend the proposed topic to the Council**

### *Item 2.4: Update on rape offences guidelines impact assessment*

- 10) Tom Hughes provided an update on the draft impact assessments for the guidelines on rape offences. The Committee noted the update.

### *Item 2.5: Update on Sentencing Young People – 1 year review*

- 11) Tom Hughes provided an update on the one year review of the 'Sentencing Young People' guideline. The Committee noted the update.

### *Item 2.6: Research Framework [paper 2.6]*

- 12) The Committee considered and provided input to the draft of the revised research framework. Secretariat to carry out amendments as agreed.

#### **ACTION POINT**

**AP3: Secretariat to revise the research framework in terms of the Committee's agreed amendments.**

### **3) RESEARCH REPORTS**

*Item 3.1: Update on research reports [paper 3.1]*

- 13) Nicole Vidal provided the Committee with an update on recent Council research publications. The Committee noted the update.

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

*Item 4.1: Update on research and engagement*

- 14) Nicole Vidal provided an update on an upcoming data conference to be held at the University of Surrey as well as the Council's potential involvement in a knowledge exchange project with the University of Oxford. The Committee noted the update.

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

*Item 5.1: Future meeting dates*

- 15) Secretariat to canvass dates for next meeting by correspondence.

#### **ACTION POINT**

**AP4: Secretariat to canvass dates for next meeting by correspondence.**

### **6: AOCB**

*Item 6.1: AOCB*

- 16) No further business was raised.