

MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH SENTENCING COUNCIL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

16 NOVEMBER 2022, VIA WEBEX

MINUTES

Members present: Dr Hannah Graham (Chair)
Susan Fallone, JP
Louise Arrol, KC

Apologies: Sheriff Iain Fleming

Secretariat: Andrew Bell (Principal Research Officer)
Dr Nicole Vidal (Researcher)

1. PROCEEDINGS

Item 1.1: Introduction and welcome

- 1) The chair welcomed Louise Arrol to her first meeting of the committee. Apologies were received from Sheriff Fleming.

Item 1.2: Minutes of previous meeting

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

Item 1.3: Private papers

- 3) The Committee agreed the private papers for the meeting.

2. EXTERNAL RESEARCH

Item 2.1: 2023/24 priorities and projects

- 4) The committee considered research priorities for the 2023/24 financial year.
- 5) The committee agreed to recommend these to the Council.

Item 2.2: Monitoring and evaluation of guidelines – first draft plan

- 6) The committee considered a detailed draft plan on the medium term monitoring and evaluation of in force guidelines.

7) The committee agreed to recommend this plan to the Council.

Item 2.3: Current commissioning

- 8) The committee considered and provided input to draft invitations to tender for a project on public perceptions of sentence discounting, and projects on victim-survivors' views on sentencing for sexual offences and offences involving domestic abuse.
- 9) The committee recommended that procurement of these project proceed.

Item 2.4: PhD project support request

- 10) The committee considered a request for support from a PhD student seeking to explore the impact of progress reviews attached to CPO disposals in non-problem solving courts.
- 11) The committee agreed to provide supportive lines to be included in the project's research access request to SCTS, and noted its interest in the future findings.

3: RESEARCH REPORTS

Item 3.1: Publications update

- 12) Andrew provided the committee with an update on recent Council research publications.

4: PROMOTING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

Item 4.1: Sentencing Academy and Sentencing Council for England and Wales seminar

- 13) Andrew provided an update on an upcoming research seminar to be held in London.

5: FUTURE MEETING DATES

- 14) The committee agreed to work by correspondence as required and to seek dates to meet in spring 2023.

6: AOCB

- 15) There was no other business.