

## PAPER 5.1: STANDING ORDERS

### Purpose

1. To propose an update to the Council's [standing orders](#) in order to clarify and extend the process by which approval can be obtained for comments of significance provided to the media on behalf of the Council when the Chair is unavailable.

### Background

2. It is anticipated that media enquiries will require urgent response at times when the Council Chair or relevant Committee Chair may be unavailable.
3. Decisions on standing orders are reserved to the Council, as per standing order 10.1(b).

### Discussion

4. We have reviewed the standing orders and propose the following update:

Current Standing Order	Proposed Standing Order
<p><b>Communications with the press</b></p> <p>11.5 The Secretariat will liaise with the press as required on behalf of the Council, including as to the following:</p> <p>(a) promoting the work of the Council in accordance with an agreed communications strategy;</p> <p>(b) issuing press releases on Council activities and on developments relating to the Council's work; and</p> <p>(c) responding to press queries.</p>	<p>No change</p>

<p>11.6 The Secretariat will present any significant items to the Chair, or relevant committee Chair, for approval.</p>	<p>11.6 The Secretariat will present any significant items to the Chair for approval. In the Chair's absence or unavailability, approval will be sought, in descending order and subject to their availability, from:</p> <p>(a) the senator member;</p> <p>(b) any sheriff principal member; or</p> <p>(c) the Chair of the Communications Committee.</p>
<p>11.7 Members who receive enquiries from the press should pass these to the Secretariat.</p>	<p>No change</p>

**Recommendation**

5. **Members are invited to agree the proposed updates to the Council's standing orders.**

**Scottish Sentencing Council Secretariat  
March 2017**