

MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH SENTENCING COUNCIL

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

3 April 2025, VIA TEAMS

MINUTES

Members present: Dr Jay Gormley (chair)
Sheriff Iain Fleming
Sheriff Louise Arrol KC (advisor)

Secretariat: Nicole Vidal (principal research officer)
Ondine Tennant (director)
Jane Rice (senior policy officer)
Hannah Downey (senior research officer)

1) Proceedings

Welcome and introductions

- 1) Dr Jay Gormley was nominated and elected as chair of the committee, effective from this meeting.
- 2) Dr Jay Gormley welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 3) The committee noted and agreed that committee papers should be treated as private.

Item 1.1: Minutes of previous meeting [paper 1.1]

- 4) The minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2024 were approved.

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

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

2) RESEARCH PROJECTS

Item 2.1: Update on current projects

- 6) Nicole Vidal provided an update on the progress of research projects. The Committee noted the update.

Item 2.2: Policy assistance and impact of Council research.

- 7) Nicole Vidal advised of an exercise being carried out by the secretariat with regard to collating and summarising the various research outputs of the Council to date. Jane Rice provided an update on work she had been undertaking to review the various research reports relating to sexual offences as part of this. The Committee noted the update.

3) REPORTS

Item 3.1: Research symposium

- 8) Nicole Vidal provided an update on the progress of the upcoming Research symposium on 20th May 2025.
- 9) The committee reviewed the symposium, speakers and topics. The committee noted the update and provided views on, and suggestions as to, potential speakers.
- 10) The committee agreed its next meeting should take place ahead of the symposium so that final arrangements could be reviewed.

4) FUTURE MEETING DATES

Item 6.1: Future meeting dates

- 11) The committee agreed to meet on May 1st at 16:15.

ACTION POINT

AP1: *Secretariat to send Teams invitation for next meeting.*

5) AOCB

Item 7.1: AOCB

- 12) Hannah Downey informed committee members that she was reviewing the current arrangements for considering and publishing received research reports with a view to preparing a more formalised publications process. She would provide a further update by correspondence.

ACTION POINT

AP2: Secretariat to discuss publications process with attending members by correspondence before June Council meeting.

Scottish Sentencing Council Secretariat

April 2025