

**MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH SENTENCING COUNCIL
COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
20 FEBRUARY 2025
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE
MINUTES**

- Members present:** Joanne McMillan (chair)
Lindsey Miller (member)
Lynn Burns (member)
Sheriff Paul Brown (advisor)
Sheriff Amel Elfallah (advisor)
- Secretariat:** Valerie MacGregor (principal policy officer - engagement)
Caroline Bellinger (communications manager)
Nick Bibby (communications manager)

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

1. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Nick Bibby as a Communications Manager for the secretariat.
2. The Committee agreed not to publish the following papers: 1.2, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, and 5.1.

PROCEEDINGS

Item 1.1: Draft minutes

3. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 November 2024 were approved.

Item 1.2: Progress of actions

4. The Committee noted an update on actions from the previous meeting.

10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

Item 2.1: 10-year anniversary

5. Paper 2.1 sought further cementing of proposals discussed at previous meetings for appropriate tenth anniversary activities.

ACTION POINTS

AP1: Secretariat to revert to the Committee with potential arrangements for an essay writing competition as soon as is practicable.

AP2: Secretariat to provide the Council with a draft proposal of the activities and timelines for the tenth anniversary at the next Council meeting in March.

LAW COMPETITION

Item 3: Law competition

6. Paper 3.1 asked the Committee to discuss and agree the Council's approach to sponsoring a law competition. The Committee agreed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Item 4.1: Engagement

7. Paper 4.1 provided the Committee with an update on engagement activity. The Committee noted the paper.

Item 4.2: Media and social media activity

8. Paper 4.2 provided the Committee with an update on media and social media activity. The Committee noted the paper.

Item 4.3: Friday Facts

9. Paper 4.3 provided the Committee with an update on Friday Facts. The Committee noted the paper.

Item 4.4: Communications work update

10. The Committee was provided with an oral update of recent communications activity.

SOCIAL MEDIA USE

Item 5.1: Social media use

11. Paper 5.1 discussed the Council's use of social media platforms. The Committee agreed to continue use of current platforms and to also set up BlueSky and Threads accounts while considering their future use, if any.

ACTION POINT

AP3: Secretariat to set up BlueSky and Threads accounts while considering future use.

AOB AND NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

Item 6.1: AOB

12. No other business was raised.

Item 6.2: Date of next meeting

13. The Committee agreed to arrange the next meeting by correspondence.

Scottish Sentencing Council Secretariat

February 2025