

**MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH SENTENCING COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**28 OCTOBER 2025**

**BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**MINUTES**

**Members present:**

Joanne McMillan (chair)  
Lynn Burns (member)  
Sheriff Amel Elfallah (advisor)  
Sheriff Pattison (member)  
Lindsey Miller (member)

**Secretariat:**

Valerie MacGregor (principal policy officer - engagement)  
Lynda Tahri (communications manager)  
Nick Bibby (communications manager)  
Victoria Weldon (head of communications and engagement)

**APOLOGIES**

1. Apologies were noted from Sheriff Paul Brown (advisor).
2. The Committee agreed not to publish the following papers: 1.2, 2.1, 2.1A, 2.1B, 2.1C, 4.1, 4.1A, 5.1, 5.1A, 5.1B, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3.

**PROCEEDINGS**

**Item 1.1: Draft minutes**

3. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 August 2025 were approved.

**Item 1.2: Progress of actions**

4. The Committee noted the actions from the previous meeting.

**EASY TO READ DOCUMENT**

**Item 2.1: Update**

5. Paper 2.1 provided an update and proposed draft of the easy read version of the information pack. This was reviewed and discussed with the Committee proposing some further developments to the publication.

**ACTION POINT**

***AP1: Secretariat to update easy read information pack and present at next Council meeting.***

**10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

**Item 3.1: Oral update**

6. The secretariat provided an update on the activities planned for the ten-year anniversary.

**ACTION POINT**

***AP2: Secretariat to continue to update Committee members on activities.***

**GUIDELINE WORK**

**Item 4.1: Domestic abuse guideline consultation**

7. The secretariat provided a forward-looking communications plan for the release of the domestic abuse guideline consultation. The Committee reviewed and approved with no changes.

**ACTION POINT**

***AP3: Secretariat to present plan at the next Council meeting for final sign off.***

**RAPE CONSULTATION REPORT COMMUNICATION PLAN**

**Item 5.1: Communications plan**

1. Paper 5.1A provided an update on the communications brief for the upcoming release of the consultation report on draft guidelines for rape offences. This was reviewed and discussed, with the Committee proposing some further developments to the brief.

**ACTION POINT**

***AP4: Secretariat to update communications brief ahead of Council publishing consultation report on draft guidelines for rape offences***

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Item 6.1: Communications activity**

2. The Committee was provided with an update of recent communications activity. The Committee noted the paper.

**Item 6.2: Digital and social media report**

3. Paper 6.2 provided the Committee with an update on media and social media activity. The Committee noted the paper.

**Item 6.3: Engagement**

4. Paper 6.3 provided the Committee with an update on engagement activity. The Committee noted the paper.

**AOB**

**Item 7.1: AOB**

5. No other business was raised.

**Scottish Sentencing Council Secretariat**

**October 2025**