

**MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH SENTENCING COUNCIL**

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY 4 AUGUST 2022**

**BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**MINUTES**

**Members present:**

Krista Johnston

Hannah Graham

Summary Sheriff Amel Elfallah (not yet appointed to Committee)

Sheriff Paul Brown (advisor)

**Secretariat:**

Valerie MacGregor (Principal Policy Officer - Engagement)

Caroline Bellinger (Communications Manager)

Richard Smith (Business Manager)

**Apologies:**

Sheriff Andrew McIntyre (advisor)

**1) PROCEEDINGS**

**Item 1.1: Introductions**

1. Krista Johnson, interim chair of the Committee, opened the meeting. The Committee welcomed Summary Sheriff Amel Elfallah who was recently appointed as a judicial member of the Council. It was noted that Summary Sheriff Elfallah was not yet a member of the Committee and that her committee appointments would be confirmed in due course.

2. The Committee also welcomed Valerie MacGregor and Caroline Bellinger who have been appointed as Principal Policy Officer (Engagement) and Communications Manager to the Council, respectively.

### **Item 1.2: Draft minutes of last meeting and progress of actions**

2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 February 2022 were approved.

### **Item 1.2A: Progress of actions since last meeting**

3. An update on actions from previous meeting was provided. The Committee noted the update.

### **Item 1.3: Chair**

4. The Committee agreed to postpone the appointment of a chair to the Committee until the new Council members have been appointed to committees.

## **2) WEBSITE**

### **Item 2.1: Website support**

5. Caroline Bellinger provided an update on the contract for the Council's website support. The Committee noted paper 2.1.

## **3) DEATH BY DRIVING**

### **Item 3.1: Media plan**

6. Valerie MacGregor provided an update on the media plan for the launch of the public consultation on the death by driving guideline.
7. The Committee noted the plan and discussed the proposals.
8. The Committee agreed to encourage as wide a range of responses to the consultation as possible.

### ***ACTION POINT***

***AP1: Secretariat to finalise arrangements for engagement with the public and media for the launch of the public consultation on the death by driving guideline.***

#### 4) COMMUNICATIONS

##### Item 4.1: Recent and upcoming engagement

9. The Committee noted the update provided in paper 4.1 regarding recent and upcoming engagement activity.
10. Valerie MacGregor provided an update on progress of planning for the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law conference.
11. The Committee noted the proposals and agreed on the topics suggested.

##### ***ACTION POINT***

***AP2: Secretariat to continue developing topics for the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law conference.***

##### Item 4.2: Media and social media report, recommendation, policy and protocol

12. Caroline Bellinger provided an update on social media and website analytics with reference to paper 4.2. In particular she noted that traffic was increasing across all communications channels. The Committee noted the update.
13. The Committee noted papers 4.2A, 4.2B and 4.2C and approved the proposals:
  - for the secretariat to amend the format of the media and social media reports to provide a higher level overview; and
  - to update the social media policy and protocol.

##### ***ACTION POINT***

***AP3: Communications Manager to amend the format of the media and social media reports.***

#### 5) COUNCIL BLOG

##### Item 5.1: Council blog

14. Valerie MacGregor provided an update on plans to give the Council's website blog a suitable title.

##### ***ACTION POINT***

***AP4: Secretariat to take proposal for blog title to Council for consideration.***

## 6) SENTENCING YOUNG PEOPLE GUIDELINE PROMOTION

### Item 6.1: Sentencing young people guideline promotion

15. Valerie MacGregor provided an update on plans for engagement with Scottish students and the Scottish Modern Studies Association. The Committee approved the proposals.

#### ***ACTION POINT***

***AP5: Secretariat to continue planning for the engagement with Scottish students and the Scottish Modern Studies Association.***

## 7) UNIVERSITY DRAFT LECTURE

### Item 7.1 University draft lecture

16. Valerie MacGregor provided an update on plans to provide introductory lectures to Scottish law schools. The Committee approved the proposals.

#### ***ACTION POINT***

***AP6: Secretariat to continue development of the lectures.***

## 8) NEXT MEETING & AOB

### Item 8.1: AOB

17. Hannah Graham highlighted the return of in-person events such as conferences and workshops, a large number of which would likely be of interest to the work of the Council.

### Item 8.2: Date of next meeting

18. The Committee agreed to arrange the date of next meeting of the Committee by correspondence.