

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

26 JANUARY 2026

BY VIDEO CONFERENCE

MINUTES

Members present: Sheriff Pattison (chair)
Joanne McMillan (member)
Lynn Burns (member)
Sheriff Amel Elfallah (advisor)

Secretariat: Valerie MacGregor (principal policy officer - engagement)
Lynda Tahri (communications manager)
Victoria Weldon (head of communications and engagement)
Ondine Tennant (director)

APOLOGIES

1. Apologies were noted from Sheriff Paul Brown (advisor) and Lindsey Miller (member).
2. The Committee agreed not to publish the following papers: 1.2, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.3B, 4.1, 4.1B, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3.

PROCEEDINGS

Item 1.1: Draft minutes

3. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 October 2025 were approved.

Item 1.2: Progress of actions

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

OPEN JUSTICE PROPOSALS

Item 2.1: Update

5. Item 2.1 provided a proposal to work with the Judicial Office open justice initiative. This would help to raise awareness of sentencing in particular cases.

ACTION POINT

AP1: Secretariat to create a communications plan and checklist

DIGITAL & SOCIAL MEDIA PROPOSAL

Item 3.1: Social media content

6. The secretariat provided a proposal on updating the Council's existing social media presence.

ACTION POINT

AP2: Secretariat to review costs and presence of staff resource needed

Item 3.2: Proposed changes to digital analytics

7. The secretariat proposed future changes to the content of social media analytics. The Committee noted the paper and the changes.

Item 3.3: Proposed changes to secretariat webpages

8. The secretariat informed the committee of changes being made to the secretariat section of the Council's website. The Committee noted the changes.

GUIDELINE WORK

Item 4.1: Domestic abuse guideline consultation

9. The secretariat was asked to approve a communications brief ahead of the launch of the public consultation on the draft Domestic Abuse guideline. The Committee approved the brief.

COMMUNICATIONS

Item 5.1: Communications activity

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

Item 5.2: Digital and social media report

11. Paper 5.2 provided the Committee with an update on media and social media activity. The Committee noted the paper.

Item 5.3: Engagement

12. Paper 5.3 provided the Committee with an update on engagement activity. The Committee noted the paper.

AOB

Item 6.1: AOB

13. No other business was raised.

Scottish Sentencing Council Secretariat

January 2026