

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

15 AUGUST 2025

BY VIDEO CONFERENCE

MINUTES

Members present:

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

Secretariat:

Valerie MacGregor (principal policy officer - engagement)
Lynda Tahri (communications manager)
Nick Bibby (communications manager)

APOLOGIES

1. Apologies were noted from Lindsey Miller (member) and Sheriff Paul Brown (advisor).
2. The Committee agreed not to publish the following papers: 1.2, 2.1, 2.1A, 3.1, 5.1, 5.1A, 5.1B, 5.1C, 5.1D, 5.1E, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and 7.1.

PROCEEDINGS

Item 1.1: Draft minutes

3. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 May 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 2.1A, a draft of the Easy-to-Read version of the information pack, was reviewed and discussed. The Committee proposed some further developments to the publication.

ACTION POINT

AP1: Secretariat to provide options on further developing the draft.

WEBSITE

Item 3.1: Website plan

6. The secretariat provided an update on the Council's website review with the consideration of exploring a user survey.

ACTION POINT

AP2: Secretariat to explore options for the possibility of a user survey.

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Item 4.1: Oral update

7. The secretariat provided an update on the proposal of activities for the tenth anniversary.

ACTION POINT

AP3: Secretariat to continue to update Committee members on activities.

RAPE CONSULTATION REPORT COMMUNICATION PLAN

Item 5.1: Communications plan

8. The secretariat provided a forward-looking communications plan for the publication of a report on the Council's response to the public consultation on offences of rape.

ACTION POINT

AP4: Secretariat to provide communications plan of activities at the next Council meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Item 6.1: Communications activity

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

Item 6.2: Digital and social media report

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

Item 6.3: Engagement

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

NATIONAL SURVEY

Item 7.1: Communications plan

12. The secretariat provided the Committee with an update on a commissioned national survey on public perceptions. The secretariat intends to create a communications plan around the publication in due course.

ACTION POINT

AP5: Secretariat to provide a communications plan of activities in due course.

AOB

Item 8.1: AOB

13. The secretariat discussed the development of a new educational video. The Committee noted the discussion.

Scottish Sentencing Council Secretariat

August 2025