

MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH SENTENCING COUNCIL

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

12 September 2024, VIA TEAMS

MINUTES

Members present: Dr Hannah Graham (chair)
Sheriff Louise Arrol KC (advisor)

Apologies: Sheriff Iain Fleming
Ondine Tennant (secretary)
Hannah Downey (interim senior research officer)

Secretariat: Nicole Vidal (interim principal research officer)
David Ross (principal policy officer)

1 – Proceedings

Welcome and introductions

- 1) Hannah Graham welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the apologies received.
- 2) The committee noted that the meeting was not quorate and therefore any recommendations reached will be put to the next committee meeting for decision, or where appropriate, to agree items by correspondence.
- 3) The committee noted and agreed that committee papers should be treated as private.

Item 1.1: Minutes of previous meeting [paper 1.1]

- 4) The committee members present approved the draft minutes of the meeting of 28 February 2024 and noted that final approval prior to publication will be put to the next committee meeting.

ACTION POINT

AP1: The draft minutes of the meeting of 28 February 2024 will be put to the next committee meeting.

Item 1.2: Progress of actions since last meeting [paper 1.2]

- 5) An update on actions from previous meeting was provided. The Committee noted the update.

2 – RESEARCH PROJECTS

Item 2.1: Update on current projects

- 6) Nicole Vidal provided an update on the progress of research projects along with a three-year forecast of projects and priorities with reference to paper 2.1. The committee noted the update.

3 – EXTERNAL PROJECTS

Item 3.1: National Survey on Public Perceptions of Sentencing – update

- 7) Nicole Vidal provided an update on the development of the National Survey on Public Perceptions of Sentencing project. The committee noted the update.

4 – RESEARCH REPORTS

Item 4.1: Update on research reports and publications

- 8) Nicole Vidal provided the Committee with an update on recent and upcoming Council research reports and publications. The Committee noted the update.

5 – PROMOTING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

Item 5.1: Mental health, neurodivergence, and learning disability in sentencing

- 9) David Ross provided an update and invited the council to share feedback on the Mental health, neurodivergence, and learning disability in sentencing conference, which was hosted by the secretariat on 30 August 2024. The committee noted the update.

Item 5.2: Eurocrim 2024 and additional engagement updates

- 10) Nicole Vidal provided the committee with an update on the European Society for Criminology Conference 2024, noting that Hannah Downey was representing the secretariat as an attendee. The committee noted the update.

6 – FUTURE MEETING DATES

Item 6.1: Future meeting dates

- 11) Secretariat to canvass dates for next meeting by correspondence.

ACTION POINT

AP2: ***Secretariat to canvass dates for next meeting by correspondence.***

7 – AOCB

Item 7.1: AOCB

- 12) No further business was raised.

Scottish Sentencing Council Secretariat

September 2024