

Report to:	The Board
Meeting Date:	25 March 2019
Report Title	Meetings with Outside Bodies
Report Category	For Information
Issue status:	Business as usual

Written by:	Executive Assistant
Director responsible:	Chief Executive
Presented by:	N/A
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Publication of the Paper
This paper does not contain information of a sensitive nature and should be published.

Report

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT - JUSTICE

Minister for Community Safety - On 20 February Ray Macfarlane and Colin Lancaster had a quarterly meeting with Ash Denham, Minister for Community Safety.

Scottish Government - Legal Aid Review - On 25 February Anne Dickson, Hazel Thoms and John Osborne attended a meeting with Scottish Government officials to discuss matters relating to the Legal Aid Review Consultation.

Scottish Government - On 11 March Colin Lancaster met with Neil Rennick, Director, Justice to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Expert Payment Panel - The Minister for Community Safety has convened an Expert Payment Panel to consider the legal aid payment framework and advice for reform. SLAB is represented on the Panel by Ray McMenamin and Colin Lancaster. On 15 March Colin Lancaster, Matt Taylor and Steven Carrie gave a presentation to the Panel on the current legal aid fee regimes.

Scottish Government - On 12 March Graeme Hill, Vince Simmons and Audrey Crawford attended a meeting with Scottish Government officials on sponsorship and financial accountability.

Scottish Government - On 19 February SLAB staff met with Tom McNamara, Head of Children's Hearings Branch to discuss matters relating to the Children's 'advocacy workers' proposal in the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Bill.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT - GENERAL

Scottish Government/Law Society of Scotland - On 12 February Colin Lancaster and Denise Swanson, Head of Access to Justice Unit, met with Jim Stephenson (Convener, Law Society Access to Justice Committee) and Andrew Alexander (Head of Policy, Law Society) to discuss

the Society's current research projects relating to Pro bono and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Grant Funding Project Board - On 21 February representatives from the Scottish Government and SLAB attended a Grant Funding Project Board meeting.

LAWYERS AND REPRESENTATIVE BODIES

Adverse Childhood Experiences - On 1 March Colin Lancaster, Matthew Auchincloss and Paul Haran (PDSO) met with Iain Smith (Solicitor), James Docherty and Nina Rogers (Community Justice Scotland), Niven Rennie (Police Scotland), Kirsty Giles (ACE) and Kevin Neary (AidnAbet) to discuss matters relating to reducing offending amongst young vulnerable people travelling through the justice system.

Isle of Man Law Society - On 8 March Colin Lancaster met with Tim Swift, President and Juan Moore, Chief Executive of the Isle of Man Law Society to discuss matters relating to their Attorney General's research into legal aid in other jurisdictions.

Law Society of Scotland - On 8 March Ray Macfarlane and Colin Lancaster attended the Law Society of Scotland's Dinner.

Civil Quality Assurance Committee - On 7 March Graeme Hill, Marie-Louise Fox and Jennifer Laughland attended a meeting of the Law Society's Civil Quality Assurance Committee.

Law Society of Scotland - On 26 February SLAB staff met with representatives of the Law Society to discuss proposals to introduce a single aid type for civil legal aid.

Faculty of Advocates - On 1 March Marie-Louise Fox, Catriona Whyte and Steven Carrie met with the Faculty of Advocates Family Law Group.

JUSTICE SECTOR BODIES

Scottish Civil Justice Council - Access to Justice Committee - On 11 February Anne Dickson attended a meeting of the SCJC Access to Justice Committee. Agenda items included the Committee's work programme and an item of Justice System Reform.

Scottish Civil Justice Council - Rules Rewrite Workstream 5 - Access to Justice - On 11 February Anne Dickson attended a meeting of the Scottish Civil Justice Council's Rules Rewrite Workstream to consider matters relating to Alternative Dispute Resolution and judicial mediation.

Justice Board - On 21 February Colin Lancaster attended a meeting of the Justice Board. Agenda items included a presentation on Policy development and delivery of Scotland's Restorative Justice Vision and Strategy; and an update on Brexit.

Scottish Courts & Tribunal Service - On 4 March Colin Lancaster held a telephone meeting with Eric McQueen, Chief Executive, Scottish Courts & Tribunal Service to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Scottish Civil Justice Council - On 18 March Colin Lancaster attended a meeting of the Scottish Civil Justice Council.

Mental Welfare Commission, Children's Hearings Scotland and SLAB Steering Group - On 12 February and 13 March Graeme Hill (chaired) and Colin McKinnell attended the Steering

Group meeting with representatives of the Mental Welfare Commission and Children's Hearings Scotland on the progress of the share accommodation on the third floor of Thistle House.

Children's Hearings Quality Assurance Committee - On 19 February Marie-Louise Fox chaired a meeting of the Children's Hearings Quality Assurance Committee.

Children's Hearings Scotland and Scottish Children's Reporter's Association - On 26 February SLAB staff met with representatives from Children's Hearings Scotland and Scottish Children's Reporter's Association to discuss matters of mutual interest regarding the operation of children's legal assistance.

Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership - On 4 March Marie-Louise Fox and Liz Cuschieri attended a meeting of the Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership.

PUBLIC BODIES

Public Bodies Directors of Finance Forum - On 13 February Graeme Hill attended a meeting of the Public Bodies Directors of Finance Forum. Agenda items included a Finance Update; Annual Accounts Update; Outcomes - Improving Reporting; and Sustainability - Circular Economy.

OTHER MEETINGS

PDSO, Ayr - On 13 March Colin Lancaster visited and met staff at the Ayr PDSO.

JCC Meeting with the Union - On 14 March Colin Lancaster and Graeme Hill attended a meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee with the Union.

ACE Aware Scotland event-Therapeutic Justice - On 14 March Colin Lancaster attended a seminar on Therapeutic Justice hosted by the Lord Justice Clerk, Lady Dorrian. The speakers were Judge Lerner-Wren, an American judge of the USA's first Mental Health Court dispensing therapeutic justice and author of "A Court of Refuge" and Judge Victoria Pratt from New Jersey.

Egress - On 12 February SLAB officials met with representatives of Egress to discuss an online solution for form 2 (financial eligibility).