Report No: **SLAB/2019/43**

Agenda Item: **13**

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| **Report to:** | The Board |
| **Meeting Date:** | 12 August 2019 |
| **Report Title** | Meetings with Outside Bodies |
| **Report Category** | For Information |
| **Issue status:** | Business as usual |

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| **Written by:** | Julie Garvey |
| **Director responsible:** | Colin Lancaster |
| **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. |

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| **Report** |

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT - JUSTICE**

*Director, Justice* – On 26 June Colin Lancaster met Neil Rennick, Director, Justice to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Scottish Government – On 23 July Colin Lancaster and Anne Dickson met with Denise Swanson and Kieran Burke, Access to Justice, in preparation for the Expert Payment Panel meeting on 30 July.

*Expert Payment Panel* – On 30 July Colin Lancaster and Raymond McMenamin attended a meeting of the Expert Payment Panel considering the legal aid payment framework and advice for reform.

*Justice System Planning Group* – On 31 July Marie-Louise Fox attended a meeting of the Justice System Planning Group. This group shares and discusses intelligence on business volumes and trends across the justice sector.

*Deputy Director, Justice Directorate* - On 7 August Colin Lancaster met Gavin Henderson, Deputy Director of the Scottish Government’s Justice Directorate to discuss matters of mutual interest.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT – GENERAL**

*Scottish Government* - On 18 July Graeme Hill, Anne Dickson and Andy McIntosh met with Scottish Government representatives to discuss SLAB Grant Funding and EU State Aid.

*Scottish Government* – On 23 July Graeme Hill, Vince Simmons, Audrey Crawford and Andrew McIntosh attended a meeting with Scottish Government officials on sponsorship and financial accountability.

**LAWYERS AND REPRESENTATIVE BODIES**

*Criminal Quality Assurance Committee* – On 28 June and 26 July Colin Lancaster chaired meetings of the Criminal Quality Assurance Committee.

*Law Society of Scotland* - On 2 July SLAB staff met with representatives of the Law Society to discuss proposals to introduce a single aid type for criminal legal aid.

*Children’s Hearings Scotland and Scottish Children’s Reporter’s Association* - On 16 July 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.

*Irish Legal Aid Board* – On 16 July Anne Dickson and Jennifer Laughland met with colleagues at the Legal Aid Board in Dublin to discuss matters relating to Managing lawyers in the public sector (Civil Legal Assistance Offices and Law Centres).

*Law Society of Scotland* – On 22 July Ray Macfarlane and Colin Lancaster met with John Mulholland, President and Lorna Jack, Chief Executive of the Law Society to discuss matters of mutual interest.

*Edinburgh Bar Association* – On 23 July Colin Lancaster and Marie-Louise Fox met with representatives of the Edinburgh Bar Association to discuss matters of mutual interest.

*Law Society of Scotland* – On 26 July Anne Dickson and John Osborne met with representatives of the Law Society of Scotland to discuss their research for the Legal Aid Review Expert Payment Panel.

*Civil Quality Assurance Committee* – On 1 August Marie-Louise Fox and Jennifer Laughland attended a meeting of the Law Society’s Civil Quality Assurance Committee.

*Equality & Human Rights Commission Scotland* – On 2 August Colin Lancaster, Anne Dickson and Ian Dickson met with Irene Henery, Senior Solicitor of the Equality & Human Rights Commission to discuss matters relating to discuss SLAB’s administration of rules relating to Civil ABWOR as they apply to mental health work.

**JUSTICE SECTOR BODIES**

*Criminal Justice Reform (CJR) Programme Board* – On 24 June Marie-Louise attended a meeting of the Criminal Justice Reform Programme Board.

*Lord Justice Clerk's Review to improve the management of Sexual Offence Cases* - On 25 June and 31 July Marie-Louise Fox attended a meeting of the Lord Justice’s Review Group set up to develop proposals to improve the system for managing sexual offence cases.

**OTHER MEETINGS**

*Audit Scotland* – On 27 June Graeme Hill, Vince Simmons and Audrey Crawford met with representatives from Audit Scotland to discuss clearance of the Annual Accounts.

*DX* – On 17 July Graeme Hill, Colin McKinnell and Lynne Aitchison met with Justin Blackie, General Manager of Document Exchange to discuss issues relating to their services and GDPR.