Report No: **SLAB/2019/59**

 **Agenda Item:14**

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| **Report to:** | The Board |
| **Meeting Date:** | 25 November  |
| **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 25 September Colin Lancaster met Neil Rennick, Director, Justice to discuss matters of mutual interest.

*Expert Payment Panel* - On 4 October and 12 November Colin Lancaster and Raymond McMenamin attended meetings of the Legal Aid Payment Advisory Panel.

*Scottish Government* – On 4 November Anne Dickson and John Osborne met with Denise Swanson and Kieran Burke to discuss SLAB’s response to the Legal Aid Review.

*Deputy Director,* *Justice* – On 6 November Colin Lancaster met Gavin Henderson, Deputy Director, Access to Justice to discuss matters of mutual interest.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT – GENERAL**

*Scottish Government* – On 19 November Board officials met with representatives of the Scottish Government about matters relating to sponsorship and financial accountability.

*Scottish Government* – On 21 November Anne Dickson and Hazel Thoms met with Alison Dewar, Access to Justice to discuss matters relating to SLAB’s Grant Funding Programme.

**LAWYERS AND REPRESENTATIVE BODIES**

*Citizens Advice Scotland* – On 27 September Colin Lancaster met with Gillian Fyfe – Strategic Lead – Strong Communities of CAS to discuss matters of mutual interest.

*Criminal Quality Assurance Committee* – On 27 September and 25 October Colin Lancaster chaired meetings of the Criminal Quality Assurance Committee.

*Civil Quality Assurance Committee* – On 3 October Marie-Louise Fox, Graeme Hill and Jennifer Laughland attended a meeting of the Law Society’s Civil Quality Assurance Committee. On 7th November, Graeme Hill attended a meeting of the Law Society’s Civil Quality Assurance Committee.

*Children’s Quality Assurance Committee* – On 15 October Marie-Louise Fox chaired a meeting of the Children’s Quality Assurance Committee.

*Legal Aid Joint Consultative Committee* – On 1 November Colin Lancaster and Andy McIntosh attended the Legal Aid Joint Consultative Committee meeting in Belfast. Representatives from the jurisdictions of Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, the Legal Aid Agency, Guernsey, and Ireland attended.

*Law Society of Scotland* – On 4 November Anne Dickson, John Osborne and Kieran Forbes met with Andrew Alexander to discuss matters relating to payment panel research, trainee data, mental health and single aid type.

*Edinburgh Bar Association* – On 5 November Colin Lancaster and Anne Dickson met with representatives of the Edinburgh Bar Association and Scottish Government to discuss current issues of interest.

*Equality & Human Rights Commission Scotland* – On 13 November Colin Lancaster and Anne Dickson had a follow up meeting with Irene Henery, Senior Solicitor of the Equality & Human Rights Commission to discuss matters relating to SLAB’s administration of rules relating to Civil ABWOR as they apply to mental health work.

*Korea Legal Aid Corporation* – On 14 November Colin Lancaster met with Mr Sang Hee Jo, President of the Korea Legal Aid Corporation to discuss the operation of publicly funded legal assistance in Scotland.

*Children’s Hearings Scotland and Scottish Children’s Reporter’s Association* - On 19 November 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.

**JUSTICE SECTOR BODIES**

*Criminal Justice Reform Programme Board* – On 26 September Marie-Louise Fox attended a meeting of the Criminal Justice Reform Programme Board.

*Lord Justice Clerk's Review to improve the management of Sexual Offence Cases* – On 21 October 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.

*Criminal Justice Board – CJR Steering Group* – On 24 October Marie-Louise Fox attended, on behalf of Colin Lancaster, the first meeting of the Criminal Justice Board’s Criminal Justice Reform Steering Group.

*Justice Systems Planning Group* - On 20 November Marie-Louise Fox attended a meeting of the Justice Systems Planning Group. This group shares and discusses intelligence on business volumes and trends across the justice sector.

*New Summary Criminal Model Project Board* – On 21 November Kingsley Thomas attended a meeting of the New Summary Criminal Model Project Board to discuss progress with the project.

*Criminal Justice Review Steering Group* - On 21 November Colin Lancaster attended a meeting of the Criminal Justice Reform Steering Group.

*Joint Meeting of the Justice Board and Youth Justice Improvement Board*– On 21 November Colin Lancaster attended a joint meeting of the Justice Board and Youth Justice Improvement Board.

**PUBLIC BODIES**

*NDPB Chief Executives Forum*– On 24 September Colin Lancaster attended a meeting of the NDPB Chief Executives Forum. Agenda items included the Spending Review, Pay Policy, Review of Digital Progress, Shared Services, Pay and Severance Policy, the Climate Change Emergency and an update from Scottish Government.

*Public Bodies Directors of Finance Forum* – On 23 October Graeme Hill attended a meeting of the Public Bodies Directors of Finance Forum.

*Scottish Leaders Forum* – On 15 November Colin Lancaster attended the Scottish Leaders Forum comprising of a range of senior leaders from across public services in Scotland. The aim of the event was to deepen the focus on delivering improved outcomes in Scotland’s National Performance Framework and the role of the Scottish Leaders’ Forum. Action group topics included Tackling Child Poverty, Climate Change. Accountability and Incentives, Public Service Data & Evidence, Human Systems and Relational Issues.

**OTHER MEETINGS**

*The Herald* – On 1 October Colin Lancaster gave an interview to Margaret Taylor of The Herald newspaper following SLAB’s response to the consultation on legal aid reform.

*Accountable Officer Development Event* – On 9 October Colin Lancaster attended a development event for Accountable Officers

*JCC Union Meeting with the Union* – On 22 October Colin Lancaster and Graeme Hill attended a meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee with the Union.

*Foundation Roi Baudoin, Brussels* – On 23 October Colin Lancaster attended a seminar in Brussels on “Rethinking access to justice for the most vulnerable through the creation of holistic public defenders’ law firms”. Various legal aid key stakeholders in Belgium attended, including representatives of the bar associations, the judiciary and the Ministry of Justice and civil society, as well as representatives from other European jurisdictions. There was debate around the recommendations from two research reports of the Foundation’s research team proposing an innovative solution to promote access to justice for the most vulnerable populations: the creation of a multi-disciplinary firms exclusively dedicated to legal aid assistance.

*Scottish Parliament* – On 20 November Colin Lancaster attended a Reception at the Scottish Parliament to celebrate 80 Years of Impact from Scotland’s Citizens Advice Network to hear about the current and future work of the CAS network in Scotland.