 Report No: **SLAB/2020/12**

 Agenda Item: **16**

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| **Report to:** | The Board |
| **Meeting Date:** | 15 March 2021 |
| **Report Title** | Meetings with Outside Bodies |
| **Report Category** | For Information |
| **Issue status:** | Business as usual |

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| **Written by:** | Sarah Lynchehaun |
| **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 MINISTERS**

*Cabinet Secretary for Justice -* 6 January and 14 January, Colin Lancaster and Anne Dickson participated in calls with Humza Yousaf, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Ash Denham Minister for Community Safety to discuss the development of a support package for the profession.

*Cabinet Secretary**for justice* **-** 1 March, Colin Lancaster attended a Round Table meeting with justice partners and MSPs, chaired by Humza Yousaf, Cabinet Secretary for Justice, with other justice sector bodies to discuss Covid-19 responses by the sector.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT - JUSTICE**

*Director, Justice* – On 15 December, Colin Lancaster met Neil Rennick, Director, and Justice, to discuss matters of mutual interest.

*Director* – on 8 January, Colin Lancaster and Anne Dickson met Katherine Peskett (on secondment in Neil Rennick’s absence) to discuss support for the sector and the resilience fund.

*Scottish Government’s Expert Reference Group* - Children’s Advocacy in Children’s Hearings – on 12 December and 26 February Marie-Louise Fox attended meetings.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT – GENERAL**

Daily meetings with Colin Lancaster, Anne Dickson and Denise Swanson, Deputy Director, in relation to the Resilience Fund.

*Scottish Government’s Operations and Analysis Group -* Kingsley Thomas, Matt Taylor and Brian Sinclair (Cost and Performance Analyst) attend the fortnightly Scottish Government’s Operations and Analysis Group, looking at the current data and trends across the wider justice system.

*Covid-19 Justice Board Sub Group****:*** Kingsley Thomas attends the Scottish Government’s Covid-19 Justice Board Sub Group weekly Teams meeting, which continues to monitor the impact of Coronavirus across the justice sector.

*Scottish Government Debt Advice Forum* – On 15 December, Anne Dickson attended a Scottish Government Debt Advice Forum meeting.

*Accountability Meeting* – On 26 January, Graham Hill attended the sponsor team’s accountability meeting which monitors our management of Fund expenditure in line with the Framework Agreement.

*Scottish Government Finance* – on Friday 29 January, Linda Laughland (Head of HR) and Amy Rennie attended SG’s Finance briefing on Public Sector Pay Policy for 2021-22.

**LAWYERS AND REPRESENTATIVE BODIES**

*Law Society of Scotland –* on 15 December, Marie-Louise Fox attended a catch up meeting exploring quality assurance CPD webinars.

*Quality Assurance Committee* – On 14 January, 4 February and 4 March, Graeme Hill and Marie-Louise Fox attended meetings of the Law Society’s Civil Quality Assurance Committee*.*

*Faculty of Advocates* – On 25 January Colin Lancaster met with Roddy Dunlop, QC, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Faculty of Advocates – on 2 March, Colin Lancaster, Anne Dickson along with representatives from SG met with The Dean and Vice Dean of Faculty to discuss the Resilience Fund.

**JUSTICE SECTOR BODIES**

*Scottish Civil Justice Council* – The Council meeting scheduled for the 18th January 2021 was cancelled.

*COP26 Justice Board Working Group* – On 11 February, Kingsley Thomas attended the meeting of the COP26 Justice Board Working Group to discuss matters relating to the United Nations Summit on Climate Change being held in Glasgow in November 2021.

*Justice Board* – on 17 December 2020, 21 January and 18 February 2021 Colin Lancaster attended meetings of the Justice Board. Key issues in recent weeks have been the response to Covid-19 and Brexit related issues.

*Criminal Justice Board* – Colin attended fortnightly Criminal Justice Board meetings (18 December, 15, January, 29 January, 12 February, 26 February). The main focus has been on the Recover, Renew, and Transform programme.

*Children’s Hearings Improvement Partnership* (CHIP) – 15 December, 26 February, Marie-Louise Fox attended meetings to explore CHIP’s role and structure for 2021, recovery planning and the age of referral consultation analysis.

*Custody Court Standing Meeting* – on 8 January, 22 January, 5 February, 19 February, 5 March Marie-Louise Fox attended regular meetings. On 5 February Kingsley Thomas attended a Custody Courts Working Group standing meeting on Videoconferencing, which looked at the expansion of criminal custody cases taking place electronically.

*Summary Criminal Case Management Pilot* – on 15 January, Marie-Louise Fox attended this meeting which is one of the projects on the Justice Board’s Recover, Renew, Transform programme.

*Scottish Court and Tribunal Service* – on 26 January, Marie-Louise Fox attended the SCTS monthly Virtual Summary Trials Project Board.

**PUBLIC BODIES**

P*olice Scotland* – on 21 January Marie-Louise Fox attended a meeting with Police Scotland.

*Police Scotland,* Senior Responsible Owner Group – On 16 December, 28 January, 11 February, 25 February, Marie-Louise Fox attended the SRO Group Meeting for Criminal Justice organised by Police Scotland with Kenny MacDonald, Det. Chief Superintendent, Crime and Protection.

*Public Bodies Directors of Finance Forum* – On 26 February, Graeme Hill attended a meeting of the Public Bodies Directors of Finance Forum.

**OTHER MEETINGS**

*Scottish National Standards for Information and Advice Providers (SNSIAP) -* on 27 January, Kingsley Thomas chaired the SNSIAP’s Moderation Committee. This was the Committee’s first VC meeting and considered live cases alongside considerations for Phase 2 of the scheme.

*SYLA* – on 2 February, Colin Lancaster presented at the Scottish Young Lawyers’ Association’s online event, ‘Beyond the Basics - Legal Aid’. Anne Dickson also attended.

*Adults with Incapacity User Group* – On Thursday 4 February, Catriona Whyte attended the Adults with Incapacity User Group session on VC, where court and practitioners discussed current issues with cases.

*Legal Aid Agency* – on 23 February Colin Lancaster attended a meeting with Jane Harbottle, Chief Executive of the Legal Aid Agency to discuss matters of mutual interest.

*JCC Meeting with the Union* – On 25 February Colin Lancaster and Graeme Hill attended a meeting of the Union’s Joint Consultative Committee.

*Central Government Procurement Shared Service (CGPSS)* – On 16 December, Graeme Hill attended the CGPSS Board meeting.