 Report No: **SLAB/2021/20**

 Agenda Item: **10**

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| **Report to:** | The Board |
| **Meeting Date:** | 17 May 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 |
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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**

*Minister for Community Safety* – on 18 March Colin Lancaster and Ray MacFarlane met with the Minister to discuss the work undertaken recently and to discuss the Resilience Fund.

*Cabinet Secretary for Justice* – on 22 March, Colin Lancaster and Anne Dickson met with the Minister to discuss the Resilience Fund.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT - JUSTICE**

*Justice Board* – on 18 March, Colin Lancaster joined the regular meeting of the Justice Board to discuss the Recover, Renew, Transform programme.

*Criminal Justice Board* – Colin Lancaster attends fortnightly meetings with other justice stakeholder bodies. These sessions are particularly focussed on the Recover, Renew, Transform programme which is reviewing how the system operates to ensure a resilient, effective justice system.

*Director of Justice Division* – on 31 March Colin Lancaster met with Neil Rennick, SG Director for Justice, who has just returned from secondment, to discuss matters of mutual interest including the recent resilience fund and Recover, Renew, Transform programme.

*Justice Board*, *Pre- election Round Table Meeting*– on 15 April Colin Lancaster attended the pre-meeting discussion in advance of the full meeting on 22 April. These meetings were chaired by the RRT Advisory Group chair, David Strang to explore both how to develop a new vision collaboratively with partners across the system, as well as what should be the priorities for the coming parliamentary term up to (and beyond) 2026.

*Scottish Civil Justice Council* – on 26 April, Colin Lancaster attended the meeting along with various stakeholders to discuss the vision, priorities and long term objectives for the justice system.

*Director of Education and Justice*- on 21 April Colin Lancaster met with Joe Griffin, the SG Director General for Education and Justice, to discuss matters of mutual interest with a particular focus on preparations for briefing newly elected Ministers.

Scottish Civil Justice Council: *Civil Business* on 10 May Lancaster attended this conference the aim of which was to provide a forum for discussion amongst interested parties about how Court of Session and sheriff court civil business might be conducted once the pandemic is over and courts do not require to operate amidst physical distancing restrictions.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT – GENERAL**

*Payment panel –* On 19 March, Colin Lancaster and Raymond McMenamin attended a meeting of the payment panel to discuss the recent Scottish Government Pay Remit 2021 document.

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

*Scottish Government’s Cross Justice Working Group on Race and Workforce* – On 29 March Linda Laughland attended this meeting which aims to provide a strategic and cohesive approach to tackling barriers to employment across the justice system.

*Scottish Government’s Cross Justice Working Group on Race Data and Evidence* – on 31 March Matt Taylor attended this meeting. The purpose of this group is to help ensure there is an accurate understanding of COVID-19’s impact on minority ethnic communities in Scotland, and that Scottish Government policy responses reflect this.

*Scottish Government’s Operations and Analysis Group* – Fortnightly meetings attended by Kingsley Thomas, Matt Taylor and Brian Sinclair which look at the data and trends across the wider justice system.

*Scottish Government’s Resilience Fund –*Bi-weekly meetings have taken place attended by Colin Lancaster and Anne Dickson to discuss the progress, feedback and structure of support.

**LAWYERS AND REPRESENTATIVE BODIES**

*Law Society of Scotland* – on 16 March, Colin Lancaster met Lorna Jack to discuss matters of mutual interest.

*Law Society of Scotland, Quality Assurance Committee* – on 1 April and 6 May, Graeme Hill and Marie-Louise Fox attended the monthly Quality Assurance Committee meeting.

*Law Society of Scotland, Quality Assurance Committee -* on 29 April Colin Lancaster attended a meeting to discuss the remit and role of the Quality Assurance Committee.

**JUSTICE SECTOR BODIES**

*Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service* – On 10 March Colin Lancaster met with David Harvie, Crown Agent to discuss matters of mutual interest.

*Sheriff Principals* – on Friday 12 March, Colin Lancaster met with Sheriff Principal Anwar to discuss matters of mutual interest. On Friday 30 April Colin Lancaster met with Sheriff Principal Turnbull to discuss matters of mutual interest.

*Scottish Court and Tribunal Service* – on 30 March, Kingsley Thomas attended the Summary Trials National Steering Group as the SCTS continue to progress their Virtual Summary Trials Project.

*Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service –* On 14 April Colin Lancaster and Marie-Louise Fox met with John Logue Deputy Crown Agent (Operational Support) to discuss matters of mutual interest.

*Scottish Court and Tribunal Service* *Custody Courts Working Group* - Kingsley Thomas attends the fortnightly standing meeting on VC, which is looking at the expansion of criminal custody cases taking place electronically.

Scottish Civil Justice Council- Access to Justice: Family Law Committee – on 22 April Marie-Louise Fox and Lady Wise had a telephone consultation to discuss the work of the committee owing to Marie-Louise Fox’s recent appointment to the committee following the retirement of Catriona Whyte.

**PUBLIC BODIES**

*Non Departmental Public Bodies (NDPB)* – On 24 March Colin Lancaster attended the NDPB Chief Executive’s Forum.

**OTHER MEETINGS**

*International Legal Aid Group* – on 17 March Colin Lancaster had a meeting with Alan Paterson OBE to discuss this year’s conference and matters of mutual interest.

*COP26* – on 31 March, Kingsley Thomas attended a sub-group meeting of the COP26 Working Group looking at the arrangements needed for the justice system during the Climate Change conference, due to take place in Glasgow in November.

*Equality and Human Rights Commission* – on 21 April Colin Lancaster met with Irene Henery to discuss the progression of the SLAB action plan.