

Report No: **SLAB/2021/39**

Agenda item: 10

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| **Report to:** | The Board |
| **Meeting Date:** | Monday 4 October 2021 |
| **Report Title** | Meetings with Outside Bodies |
| **Report Category** | For Information |
| **Issue status:** | Business as usual |

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| **Written by:** | Sarah Lynchehaun |
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| **Publication of the Paper** |
| This paper does not contain information of a sensitive nature and can be published. |

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| **Report** |

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT - JUSTICE**

*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 now and for the future*.*

*Scottish Government* *Justice Directorate: Strategic Planning Group -* on 17 August, Colin Lancaster, Anne Dickson and John Osborne attended a meeting with Scottish Government Justice Directorate. The purpose of the meeting was to review the current high level strategic planner, discuss potential issues arising from current SG engagement with the profession and other future planning points.

*Scottish Government, Justice Directorate* – On 18 August, Colin Lancaster had a monthly catch up with Denise Swanston, Justice Directorate to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Scottish Government, Legal Aid Bill Working Group: on 23 August, Colin Lancaster, Anne Dickson, Ian Dickson, Marie-Louise Fox and Graeme Hill attended this meeting with the Scottish Government to discuss planning for the new Legal Aid Bill.

*Director of Justice –* on 7th September Colin Lancaster had his regular quarterly meeting with Director of Justice, Neil Rennick, to discuss matters of mutual interest, including the upcoming Justice Committee round table session

*Justice Board* – on 16 September, Colin Lancaster attended this meeting. Matters discussed included the continued development of the Justice Strategy, COP26 and an update from the Race and Equality Working Group.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT – GENERAL**

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

Scottish Government’s COP26 Justice Board Sub Group Working Group –Kingsley Thomas attends weekly meetings which are looking at the proposed policing and custody court arrangements for the international COP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow this November.

*Scottish Government’s Operations and Analysis Group* - 24 August, Kingsley Thomas, Matt Taylor and Brian Sinclair attended this meeting on Teams, which is looking at the data and trends across the wider justice system at present.

**LAWYERS AND REPRESENTATIVE BODIES**

*Law Society of Scotland COP26:* on 23 August and on 15th September, Marie-Louise Fox attended Teams meetings to continue contingency talks in relation to the solicitor and duty solicitor arrangements that will be needed for November conference in Glasgow, which is expected to have a big impact on the courts and justice system.

*Legal Aid Agency –* on 24 August, Colin Lancaster met with Jane Harbottle Director of the Legal Aid Agency to discuss matters of mutual interest.

*Law Society of Scotland, Quality Assurance Committee* – on 2 September, Graeme Hill and Marie-Louise Fox attended the monthly Quality Assurance Committee meeting.

*Glasgow Sheriff Court users –* on 22nd September Kingsley Thomas attended a local meeting with the Glasgow Sheriff Court users to discuss the special custody arrangements needed for the COP26 Conference from 31 October to 12 November.

*Aberdeen Sheriff Court users –*on 23rd SeptemberKingsley Thomas attended a local meeting with the Aberdeen Sheriff Court users to discuss the special custody arrangements needed for the COP26 Conference from 31 October to 12 November.

*Edinburgh Sheriff Court users –* on 23rd SeptemberKingsley Thomas attended a local meeting with the Edinburgh Sheriff Court users to discuss the special custody arrangements needed for the COP26 Conference from 31 October to 12 November.

**JUSTICE SECTOR BODIES**

*Crown Office and procurator Fiscal Service Crown Agent –* on 8th September Colin Lancaster attended his regular quarterly meeting with COPFS Crown Agent, David Harvie, to discuss matters of mutual interest, including discussion on Independent Legal Representation for complainers and the upcoming COP26 in Glasgow this November.

*Scottish Court and Tribunal Service (SCTS),Summary Trials Steering Group –* on 31 August, Marie-Louise Fox attended this meeting.

*Scottish Court and Tribunal Service: COP26 –* On 2 September and 23rd September, Marie-Louise Fox attended a SCTS organised meeting on Teams, as preparations continue for the November conference in Glasgow.

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

*Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service* – on 11 August, Marie-Louise Fox had a meeting with David Harvie, Crown Agent regarding Independent Legal Representation.

*Justice Partners: Research and Analysis Forum* – on 2 September, Matt Taylor and Brian Sinclair attended this meeting. The purpose of the forum is to facilitate communication with stakeholders and discuss future analysis projects in order to increase awareness of ongoing crime and justice research.

*Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service,* *Summary Criminal Case Management Pilot Project* *Board* - on 13th September, Marie Louise Fox attended this meeting to discuss ongoing monitoring, evaluation of outcomes and potential next stages of wider roll-out.

*Police Scotland’s Justice Board Working Group -* Marie-Louise Fox attended Police Scotland’s Justice Board Working Group on Teams with the agenda including an action log review and contingency plans for COP26 in Glasgow this November.

**PUBLIC BODIES**

*Police Scotland* – on 11 August, Marie-Louise Fox and Kingsley Thomas are attended a table-top exercise meeting to explore different scenarios for the numbers of people who could be arrested during the Climate Change Conference on public order charges, and how these extra cases will be dealt with in the Police Stations and the Courts

*Police Scotland, SRO Group meeting for Criminal Justice* – on 26 August, Marie-Louise Fox attended the monthly meeting organised by Police Scotland.

*Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration (SCRA)* – on 13 August, Marie-Louise Fox and Wendy Dalgleish had a Teams meeting with Alistair Hogg, Head of Practice and Policy at SCRA to discuss arrangements for the COP26 climate change conference in Glasgow this November.

*Police Scotland* – on 24 August, Kingsley Thomas is attended a consultation event organised by Police Scotland on the use of body worn cameras.

*Public Bodies Directors of Finance Forum* – on 25 August, Graeme Hill attended this forum where topics included Scottish Government updates on finance and pay policy, budgetary position and 5 year financial planning, presentations on Cyber Security and Scottish Futures Trust also gave a presentations on working towards the longer term.

**OTHER MEETINGS**

*Canadian Criminal Cases Review Commission workshop* – on 16 August, Kingsley Thomas attended a Zoom workshop session on the establishment of an independent Criminal Cases Review Commission in Canada to comment on the legal aid arrangements we have for our own Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission*.*

*Guidance on the Administration of Legal Aid (GALA) project – Consultation process* – on 23 August, Colin Lancaster, Anne Dickson, John Osborne, Steven Carrie and Clare Barclay met with a selection of solicitors to discuss the accounts assessment.

*Guidance on the Administration of Legal Aid (GALA) project – Consultation process* – on 25 August, Colin Lancaster, Anne Dickson, John Osborne, Steven Carrie and Clare Barclay met with representatives from Faculty of Advocates to discuss the accounts assessment.

*The Access to Justice Foundation-* On 8th September Anne Dickson attended a meeting with The Access to Justice Foundation to discuss our respective grant funding programmes and future plans to support access to legal and advice services, to target legal help at specific groups of people or specific types of legal problems*.*

*Immigration Law Practitioners -* Wendy Dalgleish and Eileen Grant are attending the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association group meeting on Teams to discuss recent developments in asylum and immigration cases, in particular the implications of the situation in Afghanistan.