

Report No: **SLAB/2022/33**

Agenda item: **09**

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| **Report to:** | The Board |
| **Meeting Date:** | 15 August 2022 |
| **Report Title** | Meetings with Outside Bodies |
| **Report Category** | For Information |
| **Issue status:** | Business as usual |

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| **Written by:** | Emma O’Hara |
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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**

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT, DIRECTOR – GENERAL FOR EDUCATION & JUSTICE:**

**On 28 June**: Colin Lancaster attended a Scottish Government public bodies roundtable, organised by Director-General , Joe Griffin. This virtual discussion was an opportunity for Joe to have a collective dialogue with the public bodies who sit under his accountable officer responsibilities about areas of mutual interest and shared learning.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF JUSTICE, JUSTICE DIRECTORATE:**

**On** **27 June:** Marie-Louise Fox and others from the Policy & Legal Services teams met with Scottish Government’s Denise Swanson and Justin Haccius to discuss a proposal put forward by Scottish Women’s Aid for Edinburgh's Women’s Aid.

**On 20 July**:Colin Lancaster attended a monthly catch up meeting with Denise Swanson, Deputy Director of Justice, to discuss matters of mutual interest in relation to legal aid.

**On 8 August**: Colin Lancaster, Marie–Louise Fox, Matt Taylor & John Osborne met with Denise Swanson, Justin Haccius, and colleagues from Scottish Government sponsor team, to discuss tender specification for Legal Aid payment panel research.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT, HEAD OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE, JUSTICE DIRECTORATE***:*

**On 29 July**: Colin Lancaster, Marie–Louise Fox, Ian Dickson, Paul Haran and Andrew McIntosh attended the latest Strategic Planning Group with Justin Haccius, Head of the Scottish Government’s Access to Justice Unit, alongside colleagues from Scottish Government sponsor team, to discuss drafting of a criminal justice strategy.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT, LEGAL AID POLICY MANAGER, JUSTICE DIRECTORATE:**

**On 4 July:** Marie-Louise Fox and Paul Haran met with Shona Urquhart and colleagues from the Scottish Government sponsor team to discuss proposals for funding Independent Legal Representation for sexual offence complainers, as part of SG’s consultation on improving victims’ experiences of the justice system. The consultation paper is available online [**here**](https://www.gov.scot/publications/improving-victims-experiences-justice-system/), as well as on the Citizen Space platform [**here**](https://consult.gov.scot/justice/victimsconsultation).

**JUSTICE BOARD*:***

**On 21 July**: Colin Lancaster attended the Justice Board via Teams. The agenda included; Resource Spending Review: Implications, Workforce Planning, Justice Vision and Transformational Change Programmes: Update and National Care Service: Implications for Justice.

**SCOTTISH CIVIL JUSTICE COUNCIL:**

**On 18 July**: Colin Lancaster attended a meeting of the Scottish Civil Justice Council at the Apex Hotel, Grassmarket. The agenda included - Annual Report & Annual Programme, SCJC Standing Orders & Work Programme.

**SCOTTISH CIVIL JUSTICE COUNCIL’S RULES REWRITE COMMITTEE:**

**On 28 June**: Ian Dickson attended the latest meeting of the Scottish Civil Justice Council’s Rules Rewrite working group at the Judicial Institute, Parliament House, Edinburgh, the agenda included Ordinary Civil Procedure draft rules.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT’S CHILDREN'S HEARINGS ADVOCACY EXPERT REFERENCE GROUP:**

**On 28July:** Marie – Louise Fox attended a meeting of the Children's Hearings Advocacy Expert Reference Group. The Group’s focus is to establish and develop a sustainable model of advocacy to deliver on section 122 of the Children’s Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT’S CHILDREN'S HEARINGS IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP:**

**On 11 August:** Marie – Louise Fox attended a meeting of the Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership. The multi-agency group’s focus is collaborative working, sharing ideas and co-ordinating efforts to improve services for children and young people.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT’S SINGLE JUDGE PILOT GROUP:**

**On 4 July,** Marie-Louise Fox attended the Scottish Government’s ‘Single judge pilot’ meeting alongside other justice stakeholders, with representatives from victims’ rights groups such as Victim Support and Rape Crisis Scotland.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT’S STRATEGIC LEADS GROUP*:***

Marie - Louise Fox attended monthly meetings on Teams. The Group’s focus is draft aims and outcomes to be included in the draft Justice Strategy.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT, VICTIMS’ COMMISSIONER EVENT:**

**On 14 July:** Paul Haran attended the Victims' Commissioner for Scotland Consultation Engagement Event organised by Scottish Government’s Victims and Witnesses unit. The purpose of the event was to gather people’s views on our proposals for a Victims’ Commissioner and to help members of the public and stakeholders formulate their responses to the related consultation questions.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT – GENERAL**

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT ‘LEADING IN A DIGITAL WORLD PROGRAMME’:**

**On 19, 20 July and 9 August :** Linda Ross & Adam Ford attended sessions 1 - 3 of the ‘Leading in a digital world programme’. The programme builds professional capital and capability, develops digital champions and offers senior leaders an opportunity for interactive discussion where they can exchange ideas, discuss solutions to shared challenges and utilise opportunities for collaborative working.

**UK GOVERNMENT**

**GOVERNMENT ACTUARY’S DEPARTMENT**:

**On 1 August**: Colin Lancaster and Linda Ross met with the Government Actuary’s Department (GAD) and representatives from the Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA) to discuss SLAB’s pensions scheme.

**LAWYERS AND REPRESENTATIVE BODIES**

**LAW SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND**

**On 7 July**: Marie-Louise Fox and Jennifer Laughland attended the monthly Law Society of Scotland’s Civil Quality Assurance Committee, where peer review and matters of civil quality assurance are discussed;

Paul Haran attended the monthly meeting of the Covid – 19 resilience group organised by the Law Society of Scotland together with other justice stakeholders.

**JUSTICE SECTOR BODIES**

**LADY DORIAN’S GOVERNANCE GROUP**:

**On** **27 July**: Marie-Louise Fox virtually attended Lady Dorian’s Governance Group, which will be focused on exploring changes to the management of sexual offence cases.

**SCOTTISH COURTS AND TRIBUNAL SERVICE:**

**On 8 July:** Marie-Louise Fox attendeed the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service ‘Piloting the new Summary Criminal Model’ Project Board, led by SCTS Executive Director of Court Operations, David Fraser.

**SRO GROUP MEETING FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE ORGANISED BY POLICE SCOTLAND***:* Marie Louise Fox attended the monthly SRO Group meeting for Criminal Justice organised by Police Scotland via Teams.

**OTHER MEETINGS**

**DIVERSITY+:**

On **29 June:** Marie–Louise Fox met with Naeema Sajid of Diversity+ to discuss equalities data.

**ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS SCOTLAND:**

On **22 July:** Linda Ross met with Environmental Standards Scotland to discuss sustainability planning.

**PILAT+**:

On **12 July**: Linda Ross and Linda Laughland met with a representative from [Pilat](https://www.pilat.com/solutions/job-evaluation/) to discuss Gauge software. Gauge+ software is designed to optimise the efficiency of the job evaluation process.

**SCOTTISH WOMEN’S’ AID:**

**On 30 June:** Colin Lancaster and Marie-Louise Fox held a catch up meeting with Dr Marsha Scott of Scottish Women’s Aid to discuss grant funding.