

MEETING OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

12 MAY 2017

MINUTES

Members present: Colman Treacy (Chairman)
Simon Byrne
Mark Castle
Rosina Cottage
Rebecca Crane
Julian Goose
Martin Graham
Jill Gramann
Heather Hallett
Tim Holroyde
Maura McGowan
Julian Roberts
Alison Saunders

Apologies: Sarah Munro

Representatives: Vanessa Watling for the Lord Chief Justice (Head of the Lord Chief Justice, Criminal Justice Team)
Claire Fielder, Deputy Director, Criminal Law and Sentencing Policy

Members of Office in Attendance Steve Wade (Head of Office)
Mandy Banks
Lisa Frost
Vicky Hunt
Ruth Pope

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- 1.1. The minutes from the meeting of 7 April 2017 were agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1. The Chairman noted that this was the final Council meeting for Lauren Bowes from the Office of the Sentencing Council. He thanked her for all of her contributions to the Council's work.

3. UPDATE ON DOMESTIC ABUSE – PRESENTED BY BRIANA JURGEIT, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

- 3.1 The Council was provided with a brief update on the plans for cross governmental consideration of issues relating to domestic abuse.

4. DISCUSSION ON ARSON AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE – PRESENTED BY MANDY BANKS, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

- 4.1 The Council considered draft guidelines for the 'simple' arson and criminal damage offences (both the under and over £5000 offence). The Council agreed with the broad approach suggested with the draft guidelines, but asked for a number of revisions to the wording of proposed culpability and harm factors to be made for the next meeting.

5. DISCUSSION ON BREACH – PRESENTED BY LISA FROST, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

- 5.1 The Council considered consultation responses and research findings into the draft guideline for the offence of failing to surrender and agreed a number of revisions.

6. DISCUSSION ON BLADED ARTICLES AND OFFENSIVE WEAPONS – PRESENTED BY VICKY HUNT, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

- 6.1 The Council considered the 'bladed article/ offensive weapon threats guideline' for the first time post consultation. It discussed and agreed some changes to the guidelines which resulted in a change to the sentencing table structure. It also agreed the final sentence levels.

7. DISCUSSION ON FUTURE WORK PRIORITIES– PRESENTED BY STEVE WADE, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

- 7.1 The Council considered a provisional ranking of future guidelines in terms of their relative priorities to each other. A number of proposed changes were identified. The discussion will inform the next iteration of the Council's rolling 3-year business plan.

8. DISCUSSION ON TERRORISM – PRESENTED BY VICKY HUNT, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

- 8.1 The Council considered two new terrorism guidelines for the offences of 'membership of a proscribed organisation' and 'support of a proscribed organisation'. It discussed and agreed the culpability and harm factors, and the aggravating and mitigating factors. It will return to look at the sentence levels at a future meeting.

9. DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC ORDER – PRESENTED BY LISA FROST, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

- 9.1 The Council considered and agreed an outline draft guideline for the offence of affray. Sentence levels will be considered at a future meeting to allow for further analysis of current sentencing practice to be undertaken.