



Business Plan
Financial year 2019/20

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Sentencing Council

Chairman's introduction



I am pleased to introduce the Sentencing Council's seventh annual business plan, my first as chairman. The business plan sets out our aims, objectives and priorities for the financial year 2019/20.

This year to date the Council has launched three definitive guidelines: Arson and Criminal Damage; Public Order; and the General Guideline for sentencing offences which are not covered by a specific sentencing guideline. We have also launched the expanded explanations, which are embedded into offence specific guidelines. The expanded explanations add extra information relating to aggravating and mitigating factors, to make it easier for courts to maintain consistency when sentencing and help non-expert audiences understand how the factors influence sentencing. We are continuing to work on the Overarching Principles: Sentencing Offenders with Mental Health Conditions or Disorders post-consultation with a view to launching the definitive guideline in March 2020.

During the course of the year we will continue work to prepare draft guidelines covering:

- Firearms offences
- Trademark offences
- Immigration and modern slavery offences

We will also continue work to revise guidelines that the Council has previously produced – assault, terrorism, burglary and drug offences, a number of guidelines for use in the magistrates' courts and some technical aspects related to the totality and breach offences – and the attempted murder guideline produced by our predecessor body the Sentencing Guidelines Council.

To inform the development of the new guidelines and revision of existing guidelines, we are holding a number of consultations during the year. Consultation is a vital aspect of the Council's work, and one which we take very seriously. For guidelines to succeed they must be informed by the knowledge and expertise of those people who

have legal or practical experience in the area we are examining, and by the views of those with an interest in our work or in the operation of the wider criminal justice system. We are always grateful to the people and organisations who give their valuable time to contribute to our consultations.

In addition to publishing guidelines, the Council is required to monitor and evaluate their operation and effect. Early in the year, we published an evaluation of the guideline for health and safety offences, corporate manslaughter and food safety and hygiene offences, which came into effect in February 2016. We will also publish an interim evaluation of the Reduction in Sentence for a Guilty Plea guideline, which came into effect in June 2017. All guideline assessments are available on our website.

We continue to publish resource assessments alongside each of our new and revised guidelines. This year, these include resource assessments for Arson and Criminal Damage, the General guideline and the expanded explanations, Public Order and Overarching Principles: Sentencing Offenders with Mental Health Conditions or Disorders.

In developing guidelines, the Council has a statutory duty to have regard to public confidence in sentencing and the criminal justice system. We are also committed to making sure that members of the public, including victims and witnesses, understand how the sentencing guidelines work. We have published a report of research conducted for the Council by ComRes on public confidence in sentencing and the criminal justice system.

The research, which updates previous work on understanding attitudes to, and knowledge of, sentencing issues, examines the influence of sentencing guidelines on people's confidence in sentencing and help us identify key audiences for the Council and the messages that might most effectively reach them.

We will use the results of this research to inform our efforts to increase public knowledge of, and confidence in, sentencing. Findings from previous studies suggest that informing people about sentencing guidelines improves their confidence in the fairness of sentencing. I consider this to be a vital strand of the Council's work.

Before the end of the financial year, we will launch a new website which has been designed specifically to bring greater value to our non-expert audiences while not detracting from the experience of the professionals who work with the online guidelines. The new website will allow us to provide more context for the guidelines, to help our non-expert audiences gain a better understanding of how they work and how sentencers use them.

The purpose of publishing our business plan is to make sure that everyone who has an interest in our work is kept informed of developments. The Council's priorities can, and do, change throughout the year and from one year to the next. For example, we have a statutory duty to consider requests from the Lord Chancellor and the Court of Appeal to review the sentencing of particular offences. We may also need to consider amending our work plan if we are required to undertake work on new or particularly complex areas of sentencing. This may have an impact on our

budget and resources, and work may have to be either brought forward or pushed back to accommodate new requests or as a result of any limitations on activity during the pre-election period.

The Sentencing Council is approaching its 10th anniversary in 2020. At its inception, the Council set itself the goals of issuing guidelines covering all the most frequently sentenced either-way offences, and replacing the guidelines produced by the Sentencing Guidelines Council, by 2020.

I am pleased to say that we continue to make good progress towards these goals whilst also turning our minds to what the Council might achieve in the next 10 years and how we will work closely with magistrates, judges and others into the future.

We will use the milestone of the anniversary to look back at what we have achieved, to reflect on the lessons we have learned and to consider what we need to prioritise. We will invite opinions from our partners across the criminal justice system, subject experts, interest groups, academics and others with an interest in sentencing.

During the year, the Council will welcome a number of new members, following the conclusion of the terms of appointment of Her Honour Judge Sarah Munro QC, Mark Castle OBE and Lady Justice Hallett DBE. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their valuable contributions to the work of the Council.

I would also like to pay tribute to the staff of the Office of the Sentencing Council. They are the Council's most valuable resource and I am very proud of the high quality of the work which they produce. We operate within a limited budget and it is testament to the staff's ability and dedication that the Council continues to have the success that it does.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Hinchey", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

November 2019

Background and membership

The Sentencing Council is an independent, non-departmental public body (NDPB) of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). It was set up by Part 4 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (“the Act”) to promote greater transparency and consistency in sentencing, whilst maintaining the independence of the judiciary. Its primary role is to issue guidelines, which the courts must follow unless it is in the interests of justice not to do so. The Council meets 10 times a year; minutes are published on its website.

Appointments to the Council

The Lord Chief Justice, the Right Honourable Lord Burnett of Maldon is President of the Council. In this role he oversees Council business and appoints judicial members.

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice appoints non-judicial members.

All appointments are for a period of three years, with the possibility of extending up to a maximum of 10 years. Membership of the Council as of 1 May 2018 is as follows:

Members

The Council comprises eight judicial and six non-judicial members.

Chair: The Right Honourable Lord Justice Holroyde

Tim Holroyde was appointed as a High Court Judge in January 2009 and was a Presiding Judge on the Northern Circuit from 2012 to 2015. In October 2017 he was appointed a Lord Justice of Appeal. He was appointed to the Sentencing Council on 6 April 2015 and appointed as Chairman on 1 August 2018.

Vice-Chair: The Right Honourable Lord Justice Fulford

Adrian Fulford was appointed to the Court of Appeal in 2013 and was appointed Vice President of the Court of Appeal Criminal Division on 20 October 2019 and was appointed to the Sentencing Council with effect from the same date.

Rosina Cottage QC

Rosina Cottage has been a barrister since 1988, practising in criminal law, and is a tenant at Red Lion Chambers. She was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 2011 and appointed a Crown Court Recorder in 2012. She was appointed to the Sentencing Council on 18 July 2016.

Her Honour Judge Rebecca Crane

Rebecca Crane was appointed as a Deputy District Judge (Magistrates’ Courts) and Crown Court Recorder in 2009, a District Judge (Magistrates’ Courts) in 2011 and was then appointed as a Crown Court Judge in 2019. She was appointed to the Sentencing Council on 1 April 2017.

The Honourable Mr Justice Goose

Julian Goose was appointed to the High Court in October 2017, assigned to the Queen’s Bench Division. He was appointed to the Sentencing Council on 26 June 2014.

Beverley Thompson OBE

Beverley Thompson has spent over 30 years working in the criminal justice sector initially as a probation officer in London. She was Director for Race, Prisons and Resettlement Services at NACRO for 10 years. She was appointed to the Sentencing Council on 15 June 2018.

Rob Butler JP

Rob Butler has sat as a magistrate since 2007, as a presiding justice in the adult court since 2012, and joined the youth panel in 2010. He was appointed to the Sentencing Council on 6 April 2018.

Her Honour Judge Rosa Dean

Rosa Dean was called to the Bar in 1993, she was appointed as a District Judge (magistrates' courts) in 2006, a Recorder in 2009 and a Circuit Judge in 2011. She was appointed to the Sentencing Council on 6 April 2018.

The Honourable Mrs Justice McGowan DBE

Maura McGowan was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1980 and took Silk in 2001. She was appointed an Assistant Recorder in 1997 and a Recorder in 2000. She was appointed as a High Court Judge in 2014. She was appointed to the Sentencing Council on 2 January 2017.

Dr Alpa Parmar

Alpa Parmar is a departmental lecturer in criminology, in the Faculty of Law at the University of Oxford. She was appointed to the Sentencing Council on the 6 April 2018.

Max Hill QC

Max Hill is the Director of Public Prosecutions and head of the Crown Prosecution Service. He was appointed to the Sentencing Council on 1 November 2018.

District Judge (Magistrates' Courts) Michael Fanning

Mike Fanning was appointed as a District Judge in 2012. He works between the magistrates' and youth courts in West Yorkshire and also sits as an extradition judge in London. He was appointed a Recorder of the Crown Court in 2019 and joined the Sentencing Council with effect from 1 September 2019. He is also a prison adjudicator.

Diana Fawcett

Diana Fawcett is Chief Officer of Victim Support. She joined the charity as Director of Operations in February 2015 and became Chief Officer in January 2018.

Diana was appointed to the Council on 5 April 2019 and has specific responsibility for promoting the welfare of victims of crime.

Sub-groups

The Council has sub-groups to provide oversight in three areas: analysis and research, confidence and communications and governance. The sub-groups' roles are mandated by the Council and all key decisions are made by the full membership. The sub-groups are internal rather than public-facing.

Objectives

Statement of Purpose

The Sentencing Council for England and Wales promotes a clear, fair and consistent approach to sentencing through the publication of sentencing guidelines, which provide clear structure and processes for judges and magistrates, and victims, witnesses, offenders and the public.

Objectives

The Council's objectives are informed by its statutory duties under the Act.

We will:

- 1. Prepare sentencing guidelines that meet their stated aims, with particular regard to the likely impact on prison, probation and youth justice services, the need to consider the impact on victims, and the need to promote consistency and public confidence**

This will be met by: developing evidence-based guidelines, fully considering the policy, legal and resource implications; publishing consultations which clearly set out the rationale for the approach and likely resource implications; taking into account responses and research to make improvements before publication of definitive guidelines; and engaging with stakeholders, practitioners, the media and others to explain the implications of guidelines.

- 2. Monitor and evaluate the operation and effect of our guidelines and draw conclusions**

This will be met by: putting in place bespoke, targeted evaluations and assessments of the impact and/or implementation of guidelines and collecting the necessary monitoring data; and by using evaluation evidence to review and if necessary, amend guidelines.

- 3. Promote awareness of sentencing and sentencing practice**

This will be met by: making effective use of consultation events, proactive engagement of the media, and maximising the Council's digital capability and online presence to promote awareness and to improve and strengthen engagement with stakeholders; and by publishing relevant material, in particular evaluations of guidelines and an annual report of the Council's activities.

- 4. Deliver efficiencies, while ensuring that the Council continues to be supported by high-performing and engaged staff**

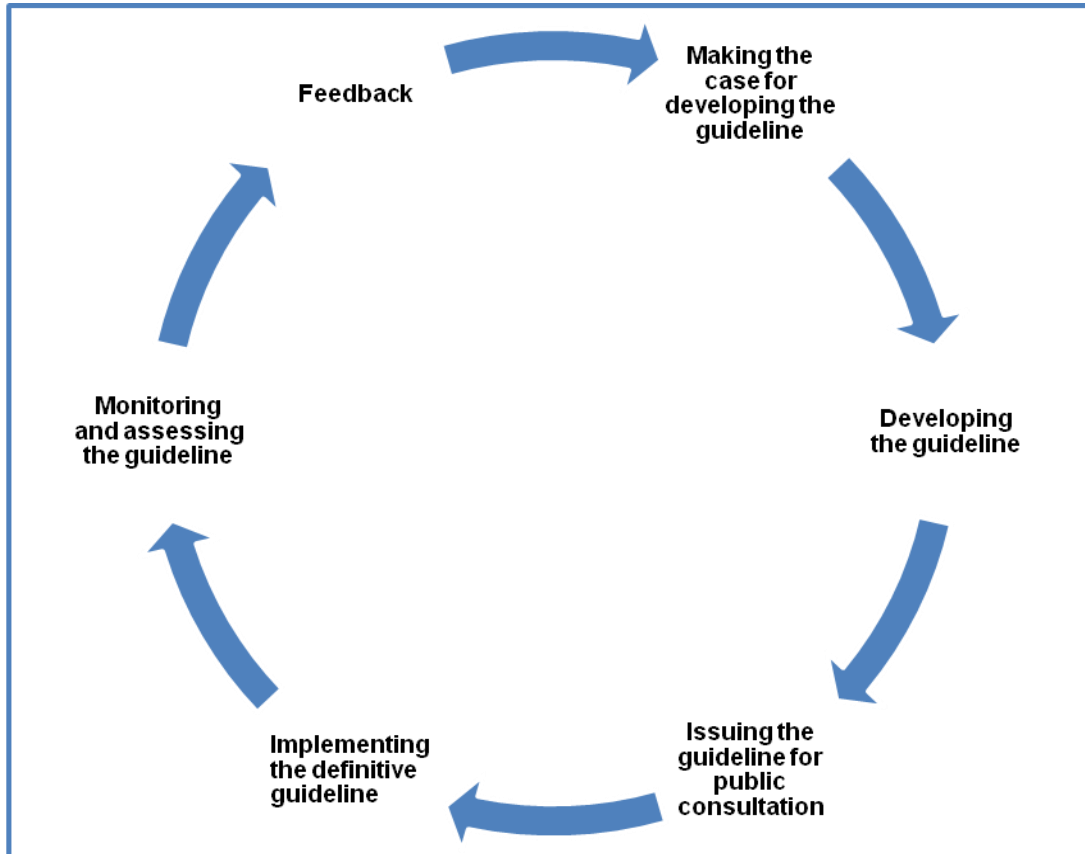
This will be met by: delivering our objectives within the budget we are allocated, while ensuring that the Office has a motivated and collaborative team who feel valued, engaged, and has the necessary capability and autonomy to deliver clear, tangible and outcome-focused objectives, and work together to identify and implement more efficient ways of working and ensure value for money.

The activities for 2019/20 that will deliver these objectives are outlined in **Table 1**.

Delivering the Sentencing Council's objectives

The Council approaches the delivery of its objectives by adopting a guideline development cycle. This is based on the policy cycle set out by HM Treasury in the *Green Book on Appraisal and Evaluation in Central Government (2003)* and allows a culture of continuous improvement to be embedded within the development process.

Following this cycle, there are several key stages within the development of a sentencing guideline:



Making the case for developing the guideline

Annex A outlines the Council's rationale for prioritising which guidelines to produce, after which options for the actual guideline are considered. This may include conducting research, assessing options for the scope and remit of a guideline, its objectives, or whether there is in fact a need for the guideline. If the guideline has been requested by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Chief Justice, Court of Appeal or a substantial body of interested parties, this would also be given due consideration.

Developing the guideline

Once the Council has decided that a guideline will be produced and has agreed the objectives, work is undertaken to produce a draft guideline that will be issued for consultation. This involves a variety of different activities including consideration of relevant case law and existing sentencing guidelines or guidance; analysis of current sentencing practice; research and analysis to assess any practical, behavioural or resource implications of draft guideline proposals; stakeholder mapping and engagement and analysis of media reports. The guideline proceeds through a number of iterations of drafting in order to ensure

that different options are fully considered. A monitoring and evaluation strategy is also drawn up to ensure that the guideline can be assessed and evaluated after implementation.

Issuing the guideline for public consultation

A draft guideline is issued for public consultation, alongside the analysis and research that supported its development and an assessment of its resource implications and any equality impact. The media and stakeholders are briefed about the main issues and the purpose of the consultation, in order to bring it to the attention of a wide audience and encourage responses. Events are held with stakeholders to ensure that those with particular interest in the guideline are aware of the consultation and able to provide their input.

Further work is then undertaken after the consultation to revise the guideline to take account of the responses received; and to review and if necessary test changes to the guideline.

Publishing and implementing the definitive guideline

The guideline is published. Updated data on sentencing practice and a new resource assessment to reflect the final guideline are published at the same time. The guideline is distributed to stakeholders and events may be held. The media are also briefed, and a range of channels, including social media, are used to ensure that the public is informed and that all key parties are aware of and able to access the guideline.

The Council works with the Judicial College to help facilitate training for sentencers on using the guideline. There will generally be an implementation period of approximately three months before the guideline comes into effect to allow for awareness-raising and any training to take place.

Monitoring and assessing the guideline

Annex B outlines the Council's approach to monitoring and evaluating its guidelines. This adopts a targeted, bespoke and proportionate approach to assessing each guideline's impact and implementation, based on the likely impact of unanticipated consequences having a significant effect on correctional resources, whether the Council intended to change sentencing practice, and whether any informal evidence suggests the guideline may not have had its intended effect. It also takes into account the data and resources available. A variety of different methods of data collection may therefore be utilised, as necessary.

Feedback

The outcomes of the monitoring and evaluation, along with any stakeholder or media feedback will then be assessed and considered by the Council. On the basis of this, the guideline cycle moves back into the phase of **making the case for developing the guideline**, this time addressing the need to review the guideline and make improvements. If this is found to be necessary, the cycle begins again. The timescale for this process will vary, depending on a number of factors including the extent of monitoring and evaluation and the urgency for taking any action.

Timing and prioritisation

The Business Plan sets out an indicative timeline for preparation and publication of guidelines based on the Council's current priorities and its three-year rolling work programme. The plan will be subject to bi-annual review and updates will be published, as appropriate, on the Sentencing Council website.

Table 1: The main activities to deliver our objectives and planned timescales are as follows:

Work area	Objectives addressed	Key planned deliverables	Target (end of quarter)
SECTION 1: GUIDELINES			
Health and Safety	2, 3	Publication of findings from guideline assessment	April 2019
Mental Health	1, 2, 3	Publication of consultation, resource assessment and statistical bulletin	April 2019
		Publication of definitive guideline, consultation response, and resource assessment	May 2020
Arson and criminal damage	1, 2, 3	Publication of definitive guideline, consultation response, and resource assessment	July 2019
Drugs	1, 2, 3	Publication of consultation, resource assessment and statistical bulletin	January 2020
Firearms offences	1, 2, 3	Publication of consultation, resource assessment and statistical bulletin	October 2019
Public Order	1, 2, 3	Publication of definitive guideline, consultation response and updated resource assessment	October 2019
General Guideline	1, 2, 3	Publication of definitive guideline, consultation response and updated resource assessment	July 2019
Expanded Explanations	1, 2, 3	Publication of definitive guideline, consultation response and updated resource assessment	July 2019
Magistrates Courts Sentencing Guidelines	1, 2, 3	Publication of consultation, resource assessment and statistical bulletin	January 2020
Assault and Attempted Murder	1, 2, 3	Publication of consultation, resource assessment and statistical bulletin	February 2020

Immigration and Modern Slavery	1, 2, 3	Publication of consultation, resource assessment and statistical bulletin	March 2020
Terrorism	1, 3	Publication of consultation, resource assessment and statistical bulletin	October 2019
		Publication of definitive guideline, consultation response and updated resource assessment	March 2020
SECTION 2: CROSS-CUTTING WORK			
Future Vision	1, 2, 3, 4	Development of future strategic vision for Sentencing Council post 2020	Ongoing throughout 2019-20
10 Year anniversary	1, 2, 3, 4	Planning for 10 Year anniversary event in 2020 and supporting activities	Ongoing throughout 2019-20
Digitisation of guidelines	3	Continue to maintain, refine and support online and offline versions of sentencing guidelines for magistrates (MCSG)	Ongoing
	3	Continue to maintain, refine and support online and offline versions of sentencing guidelines for Crown Court Judges	Ongoing
	3	Launch of redeveloped Sentencing Council website	March 2020
Public Confidence	2, 3	Publication of research report into public confidence	August 2019
Research on attitudes to guidelines: judiciary and interested parties	2	Complete work with sentencers and interested parties on attitudes to guidelines	March 2020
Sentencing Competition	3	Launch Sentencing Competition to Colleges of Law	From April 2019
		Competition finals	March 2020
Annual Report	3	Publish Annual Report	July 2019
Business Plan	3	Publish 2019/20 version of rolling 2-3 year plan	November 2019

References received from Lord Chancellor or Court of Appeal under section 124	1, 2, 3	Respond as required	Reactive only
External representation	1, 3	Council members and office staff speak at a minimum of 20 external events targeting the judiciary, criminal justice practitioners, academics and special interest groups.	Ongoing
	3	Promote sentencing guidelines and the Council using all channels, including via proactive and positive engagement with the media, to engage with Government, its Arm's Length Bodies, the Judicial College and organisations with an interest in criminal justice and sentencing.	Ongoing
	3	Promote public confidence in sentencing by tailoring and targeting our external communications, developing relationships with key advocates such as the police service and developing the public-facing content of our website.	Ongoing
	3	Provide assistance to foreign jurisdictions via visits, advice and support work.	Ongoing
SECTION 3: EFFICIENCY AND OUR PEOPLE			
Efficiency	4	<p>Assess need for publication of hard copy documents on case by case basis, publishing online unless not appropriate.</p> <p>Ensure value for money in the procurement of goods and services, making savings where possible, in particular from printing costs and complying with departmental finance, procurement and contract management rules.</p> <p>Learn from lessons of each project, making improvements to future guidelines as a result; and improving efficiency on the basis of experience of what works.</p>	Ongoing; review quarterly

Capability	4	<p>Enable the Council to operate digitally, through development and support of secure online members' area, digital Council papers and online collaboration tools.</p> <p>Ensure all staff undertake at least five days of targeted learning and development to develop skills, capability and career.</p> <p>Hold lunchtime seminars for staff to share knowledge and expertise about the work of the Council, the criminal justice system and Whitehall/ Government.</p>	
Engagement	4	Implement an action plan arising from the findings of the people survey, based on priorities identified by staff.	

TIMELINE OF PUBLICATIONS AND GUIDELINE EFFECTIVE DATES 2019/2020		
April	Health and Safety	Publication of evaluation report
April	Mental Health	Launch of consultation
July	Annual Report and Accounts	Publication of statutory annual report to the Lord Chancellor
July	Arson and Criminal Damage	Publication of definitive guideline
July	General Guideline	Publication of definitive guideline
July	Expanded Explanations	Publication of definitive guideline
August	Public Confidence	Publication of research report
October	Firearms Offences	Launch of consultation
October	Public Order	Publication of definitive guideline
October	Terrorism	Launch of consultation
January	Drug Offences	Launch of consultation
January	Magistrates' Courts Sentencing Guidelines	Launch of consultation
February	Assault and Attempted Murder	Launch of consultation
March	Mental Health	Publication of definitive guideline
March	Terrorism	Publication of definitive guideline
March	Immigration and Modern Slavery	Launch of consultation

Resources

Staff headcount (as at 1 April 2019)

Area of activity	FTE ¹
Head of Office and support	2
Policy	4.9
Analysis and research	6.8
Legal	1
Communications	3
Total	17.7

Budget

Summary of budget and resource allocation

	2018/19 (actual) ² £000s	2019/20 (budget) £000s
Total funding allocation	1,404	1,466
Staff costs	1,207	1,214
Non staff costs	163	252
Total expenditure	1,370	1,466

¹ FTE: full-time equivalents

² The total expenditure has been rounded to the nearest £1,000 independently from the constituent parts, therefore summing the parts may not equal the rounded total.

Annex A: Rationale for the prioritisation of guidelines

Under section 120 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 the Sentencing Council must prepare sentencing guidelines on:

- the discharge of a court's duty under section 144 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44) (reduction in sentences for guilty pleas);³ and
- the application of any rule of law as to the totality of sentences.⁴

Section 120(4) provides that the Council may prepare sentencing guidelines about any other matter.

The overarching aim of the Council in publishing guidelines is to promote a clear, fair and consistent approach to sentencing. In agreeing its three-year rolling work plan, the Council will prioritise the publication of guidelines that will fulfil that aim.

The Sentencing Council will schedule guideline production on the basis of one or more of the following factors:

- The Lord Chancellor or the Court of Appeal formally requests the review of sentencing for a particular offence, particular category of offence or particular category of offender and the production of a guideline.
- New legislation requires supporting sentencing guidelines.
- Guidelines issued by the Sentencing Guidelines Council require conversion into the Council's step by step approach to sentencing or current guidelines are out of date or incomplete.
- A substantial body of interested parties request a guideline to be issued for a particular area of sentencing.
- Sentencing data suggests that there may be inconsistency in sentencing for a particular offence, particular category of offence or particular category of offender.
- Evidence suggests that the guideline would have a significant effect on sentencing practice, for example, the potential range of available sentences is wide and/or the number of offences sentenced is significant.
- The resource required to produce a guideline and other work pressures.

³ s.120 (3)(a)

⁴ s.120 (3)(b)

Annex B: Criteria for assessing/ evaluating guidelines

Aim

To assess whether guidelines are having any impact on sentencing outcomes (type, length and severity) and/ or incurring any implementation issues. A two-stage process of decision-making will be undertaken:

Stage 1: Consider the need to assess the guideline

This will take account of changes forecast in the resource assessment (impact assessment) or the sentencing process set out in the guideline (implementation assessment). It will take account of whether:

- the offence is high volume and any incorrect assumptions in the resource assessment may have a significant impact;
- the Council had a stated intention of changing sentencing practice;
- Informal evidence (e.g. feedback from sentencers) suggests the guideline is not having its intended impact; and
- a substantial body of interested parties have an interest in the impact of the guideline.

If none of the above apply, the Council will be advised not to evaluate formally at this stage.

Stage 2: Evaluation/ assessment

a) Initial evaluation

If any of the above criteria apply, initial work will be undertaken using MoJ Court Proceedings Database⁵ (CPD) sentencing data for the magistrates' and Crown Court, to determine the feasibility, need and scale of further work.

If initial analysis of sentencing volumes, outcomes and average custodial length indicate any marked and/ or unintended changes after the guideline was introduced, further work will be considered. If it does not, this information would be fed back and no further analytical work at this stage would be advised.

b) Further evaluation

If further work is deemed useful, feasibility of the work will be assessed. This would consider:

- whether offence volumes are large enough to use MoJ data and to enable appropriate statistical analysis to be undertaken using a forecast of what would have happened if the guideline had not been introduced; and
- what other information can be collated (qualitative information, media reports, stakeholder feedback, etc).

The best approach to evaluation would be assessed, considering, as appropriate:

- Statistical work involving time series analysis using the MoJ CPD;

⁵ The CPD is derived from the LIBRA case management system, which holds the magistrates' court records, and the Crown Court's CREST system which holds the trial and sentencing data.

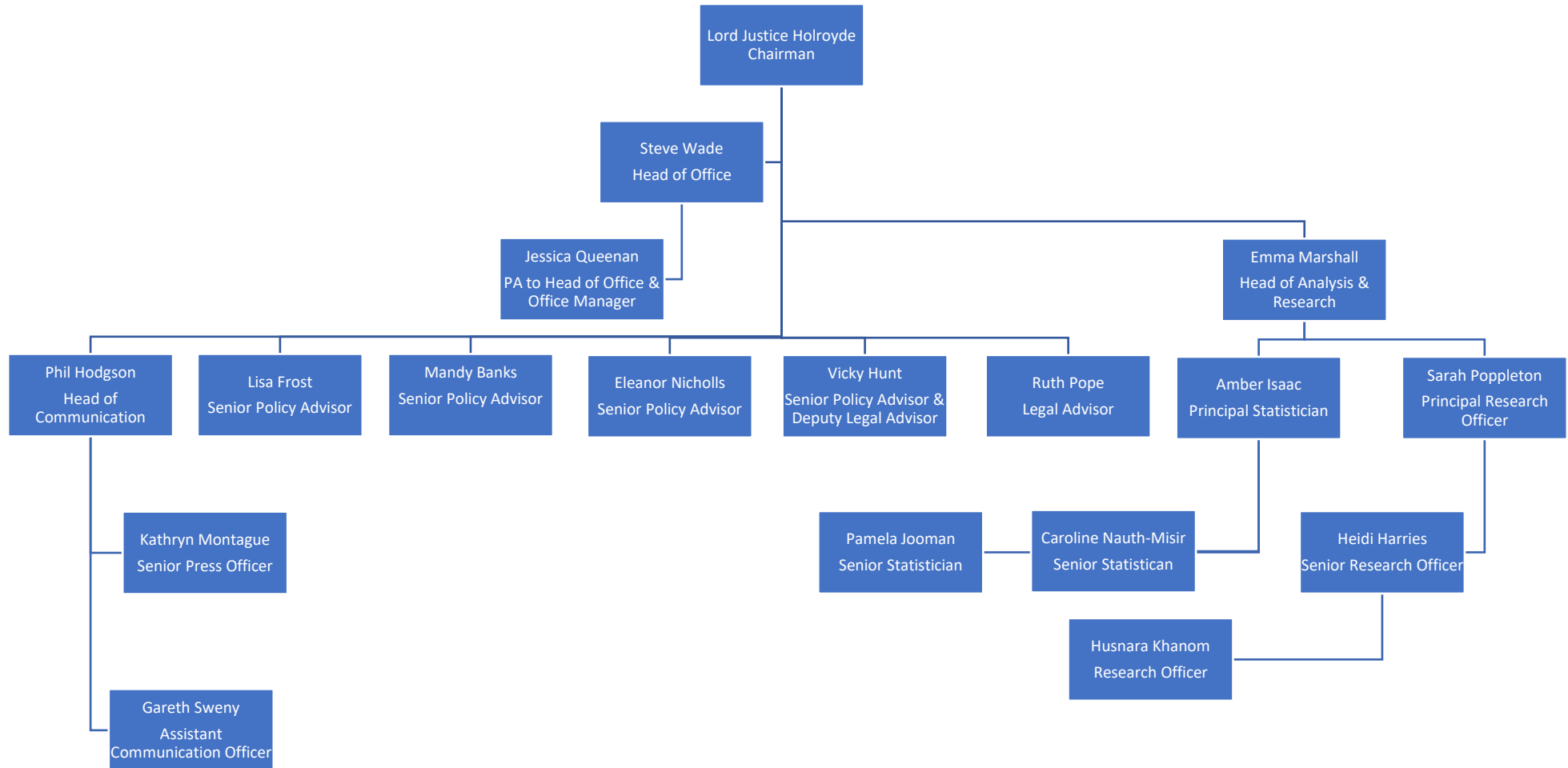
- Analysis of sentencing factor information using Crown Court Sentencing Survey⁶ and other court data (if available);
- Further bespoke quantitative or qualitative data collection and analysis to support the evaluation.

Where bespoke data collection is initiated, this should preferably involve a “before” and “after” sample, covering at least a three-month period before publication of a consultation guideline and at least three months after the guideline comes into force.

⁶ Between 1 October 2010 and 31 March 2015 the Council conducted a data collection exercise called the Crown Court Sentencing Survey. The paper-based survey was completed by the sentencing judge (or other sentencer) in the Crown Court. It collected information on the factors taken into account by the judge in working out the appropriate sentence for an offender and the final sentence given. It was designed to assist the Sentencing Council with fulfilling its duties under section 128 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009.

Annex C: The Office of the Sentencing Council as at 1 May 2019

The Sentencing Council is supported in its work by a multi-disciplinary team of civil servants, as shown below.



Annex D: Sentencing Council Guideline Work Plan – 2019-2021¹ (as at 5 November 2019)

Guideline	Consultation period	Publish definitive guideline	Definitive guideline in force²
General Guideline	19 June – 11 September 2018	July 2019	1 October 2019
Expanded Explanations	28 February – 23 May 2019	July 2019	1 October 2019
Arson and Criminal Damage	27 March – 26 June 2018	July 2019	1 October 2019
Public Order	9 May – 8 August 2018	October 2019	1 January 2020
Revision of SC assault and SGC attempted murder guidelines	February 2020 – April 2020	March 2021	1 July 2021
Overarching guideline on mental health	9 April 2019 – 9 July 2019	May 2020	1 September 2020
Drug Offences: revision of SC guideline	January 2020 – March 2020	November 2020	1 April 2021
Firearms Offences	9 Oct 2019 – January 2020	December 2020	1 April 2021
Immigration/modern slavery	March – May 2020	Spring 2021	2021
Terrorism: revision of SC guideline	22 October – 3 December 2019	March 2020	1 April 2020
Changes to MCSG	January 2020 to March 2020	June 2020	1 October 2020
Burglary: revision of SC guideline ³	Summer 2020	Spring 2021	2021
Trademark offences ³	Summer 2020	September 2020	1 January 2021
Perverting the course of justice etc ³	Summer 2020	September 2020	1 January 2021

Guideline	Consultation period	Publish definitive guideline	Definitive guideline in force²
Cybercrime ³	Summer 2020	September 2020	1 January 2021
Motoring offences ⁴	TBC	TBC	TBC

¹ The dates shown in this work plan are indicative; the Council will be revisiting its priorities and objectives throughout 2019-20 so the timetable for upcoming guidelines may change.

² In most instances we aim to bring definitive guidelines into force quarterly, on 1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October

³ Dates for these guidelines are dependent on resource availability as other guidelines are completed

⁴ Timetable dependent on legislative change following Government review of offences