

MEETING OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

13 JUNE 2025

MINUTES

Members present:

Tim Holroyde (Vice Chairman)
Simon Drew
Elaine Freer
Jo King
Stephen Leake
Juliet May
Amanda Rippon
Johanna Robinson
Beverley Thompson
Mark Wall
Richard Wright

Apologies:

Stephen Parkinson

Representatives:

Director, Youth Justice and Offender Policy, MoJ
for the Lord Chancellor
Legal Adviser to the Head of Criminal Justice for
the Lady Chief Justice
Deputy Director of Policy, CPS for the DPP

Office staff:

Head of Office
Members of the Office

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- 1.1 The minutes from the meeting of 9 May 2025 were agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 The Lady Chief Justice attended the start of the meeting to pay tribute to the Council's Chairman, Bill Davis, whose recent death had been a shock to all members and staff of the Council. The Vice Chairman then led further tributes following which messages of condolence were read out and members shared their own deep sadness at his loss.

3. DISCUSSION ON PUBLICATIONS/LEGISLATION AND KEY ASPECTS OF THE INDEPENDENT SENTENCING REVIEW

- 3.1 The Council considered the recommendations made by the Independent Sentencing Review, which reported in May. There was an initial discussion on what the proposed changes, if implemented in law, might mean in terms of changes to sentencing guidelines.
- 3.2 The Council also considered progress of the Sentencing Guidelines (Pre-Sentencing Reports) Bill and signed off on the timing of the changes to guidelines that would be necessary, based on when the Bill was expected to come into force.

4. DISCUSSION ON ANNUAL REPORT

- 4.1 The Council discussed the content of the Sentencing Council Annual Report 2024/25. Subject to the addition of an addendum to the foreword by the Vice Chairman marking the sad passing of the Chairman, the Council approved the report for submission to the Lord Chancellor.

5. DISCUSSION ON MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS

- 5.1 The Council discussed proposed additional guidelines for minor motoring offences which had been suggested by guideline users. It was agreed to consult on adding several short guidelines and making some amendments to existing guidelines.