

MEETING OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

15 DECEMBER 2023

MINUTES

Members present:

Bill Davis (Chairman)
Simon Drew
Elaine Freer
Tim Holroyde
Jo King
Stephen Leake
Juliet May
Rob Nixon
Stephen Parkinson
Johanna Robinson
Beverley Thompson
Mark Wall
Richard Wright

Apologies:

Rosa Dean

Representatives:

Claire Fielder for the Lord Chancellor (Director,
Youth Justice and Offender Policy)

Members of Office in
attendance:

Steve Wade
Lisa Frost
Ruth Pope
Ollie Simpson
Jessie Stanbrook

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- 1.1 The minutes from the meeting of 17 November 2023 were agreed subject to a minor correction.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 The Chairman noted that Rob Nixon had recently been appointed formally as the police representative on the Council.

3. DISCUSSION ON MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS – PRESENTED BY RUTH POPE, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

- 3.1 The Council considered responses to the consultation which had closed on 30 November. In the light of the generally positive responses to the proposals the Council agreed to adopt the changes consulted on to the Allocation and Children and young people guidelines, the Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug guideline, the Individuals: Unauthorised or harmful deposit, treatment or disposal etc of waste/ Illegal discharges to air, land and water guideline and the loss of control, diminished responsibility, unlawful act and gross negligence manslaughter guidelines.
- 3.2 Taking account of the responses received, the Council agreed to make some amendments to the proposals consulted on for the Fraud guideline and the Breach of a protective order guideline.

4. DISCUSSION ON MOTORING OFFENCES – PRESENTED BY OLLIE SIMPSON, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

- 4.1 The Council signed off a package of draft motoring guidelines for consultation. These include guidelines on aggravated vehicle taking offences, vehicle registration fraud, driver disqualification, and various other miscellaneous matters related to motoring.

5. DISCUSSION ON SC RESPONSE TO JSC RECOMMENDATIONS – PRESENTED BY LISA FROST, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

- 5.1 The Council considered the recommendations for the Council in the recently published report of the Justice Committee inquiry into public opinion and understanding of sentencing. The Council agreed its response, subject to changes which would be included in a final version. It was noted that some of the recommendations were outside of the remit of the Council, and a number of others were already in place or underway as part of the delivery of the Council's five year strategy and other work.

5.2 The Council agreed to consider how the other, more complex recommendations could be taken forward.

6. DISCUSSION ON LICENCE CONDITIONS – PRESENTED BY JESSIE STANBROOK, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

6.1 The Council considered issues relating to licence conditions that had come to its attention. This included the impact that limitations stemming from licence conditions can have on the rehabilitation of offenders.

6.2 The Council considered that the majority of the issues raised were outside the Council's remit, and passed those issues relevant to sentencer training to the Judicial College for consideration.