

Sentencing Council

MEETING OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

16 JUNE 2017

MINUTES

Members present:

Colman Treacy (Chairman)
Simon Byrne
Mark Castle
Rosina Cottage
Rebecca Crane
Julian Goose
Jill Gramann
Heather Hallett
Tim Holroyde
Maura McGowan
Sarah Munro
Julian Roberts
Alison Saunders

Apologies:

Martin Graham

Representatives:

Sophie Marlow for the Lord Chief Justice (Legal Adviser to the Lord Chief Justice, Criminal Justice Team)
Katie Pettifer, Director, Offender and Youth Justice 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 12 May 2017 were agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1. The Chairman welcomed Professor Tony Bottoms and Dr Jo Parsons who were attending to observe the meeting.

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

- 3.1 The Council considered a number of issues relating to future priorities, alongside a revised ranking of future guidelines. The discussion will inform the way in which various pieces of work are taken forward, as well as the next iteration of the Council's rolling 3-year business plan.

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

- 4.1 The Council agreed a final version of a definitive guideline for the offence of Failing to Surrender, then considered consultation responses to the draft guideline for Breach of a Community Order and agreed a number of revisions to the draft guideline.

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

- 5.1 The Council discussed the current timetable for producing the terrorism guidelines and agreed that steps should be taken to expedite it. It was agreed that a working group of Council members will be established so that more time can be dedicated to progressing this work with the aim that the guideline should be produced by next Spring.
- 5.2 The Council also agreed that the terrorism guidelines should include a guideline for Explosive Substance Act offences where the offence committed involves terrorism.

6. DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC ORDER – PRESENTED BY JO KEATLEY, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

- 6.1 The Council reviewed the guideline for the section five offence of public order for the first time. The culpability and harm factors were agreed and minor amendments were made to the proposed sentence levels and mitigating factors.

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

- 7.1 The Council considered the revisions made to the draft guidelines for the 'simple' arson and criminal damage offences, following the discussions at the last meeting, and asked for some minor changes to be made.
- 7.2 The Council also considered a draft guideline for the aggravated arson and criminal damage offence. The Council agreed with the approach suggested with this guideline, with some small changes to wording. Subsequent Council meetings will look at drafts for the remaining arson and criminal damage offences.

8. UPDATE ON ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH – PRESENTED BY PROFESSOR JULIAN ROBERTS, SENTENCING COUNCIL MEMBER

- 8.1 An update on recent analysis and research work was presented to the Council, both in terms of analytical support to develop guidelines and monitoring and evaluation work. As and when work is completed it will be presented to the Council.

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