

MEETING OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

28 FEBRUARY 2025

MINUTES

Members present: Bill Davis (Chairman)
Simon Drew
Elaine Freer
Tim Holroyde
Jo King
Stephen Leake
Amanda Rippon
Johanna Robinson
Mark Wall
Richard Wright

Apologies: Rob Nixon
Juliet May
Stephen Parkinson
Beverley Thompson

Others present:

President: Lady Chief Justice

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 24 January 2025 were agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 The Chairman welcomed the Lady Chief Justice who was observing a short part of this meeting in her role as President and left before the main agenda items were discussed.

3. DISCUSSION ON SENTENCING COUNCIL STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Council had an initial discussion about its future strategy, looking ahead to the conclusion of its current strategic objectives for 2021-2026.
- 3.2 The Council discussed the preliminary views of Council members as provided in individual conversations in 2024.

4. DISCUSSION ON GUIDELINE PRIORITIES

- 4.1 The Council agreed to that the following projects would be worked on over the next year: public order offences, cybercrime, bladed articles, using violence to secure entry, imposition of fines, drug offences and intimate images. The exact scope and timescale for each project would be decided once some initial work has been done.

5. DISCUSSION ON IMMIGRATION

- 5.1 The Council considered and agreed to some final changes to the harm model within the Facilitation guideline. They also agreed to add an aggravating factor to ensure that those who facilitate on multiple occasions or over a sustained period will be treated more seriously.
- 5.2 The Council signed off the full package of final guidelines on immigration ready for publication.

6. DISCUSSION ON HOUSING OFFENCES

- 6.1 The Council considered four draft guidelines relating to HMO and housing standards offences, covering both individuals and organisations.

7. DISCUSSION ON ANCILLARY ORDERS

- 7.1 In view of the fact that consultation responses were supportive of the overall approach to providing guidance on ancillary orders in magistrates' courts and the Crown Court, the Council decided to proceed with that approach.
- 7.2 The Council looked in detail at responses to proposals relating to various ancillary orders including:

Animal deprivation orders, animal destruction orders and animal disqualification orders – the Council agreed to add some further guidance as suggested by consultees.

Compensation – it was agreed to make some additions and clarifications to the general guidance and some minor changes to compensation levels guidance.

Confiscation – the Council agreed to add a note making it clear that the guidance was only a brief overview and to make additions clarifying the position relating to other financial orders.

Destruction orders under the Dangerous Dogs Act, Football banning orders and Disqualification from being a company director – changes were agreed as suggested by respondents.

Blank page