
**MEETING OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL
16 December 2011
MINUTES**

<u>Members present:</u>	Brian Leveson (Chairman) Anne Arnold John Crawforth Henry Globe Tim Godwin Gillian Guy Anthony Hughes Alistair McCreath Anne Rafferty Katharine Rainsford Julian Roberts Keir Starmer
<u>Apologies:</u>	Colman Treacy Siobhain Egan
<u>Advisors present:</u>	Paul Cavadino and Paul Wiles
<u>Non-members present:</u>	Helen Judge, Director Sentencing & Rehabilitation Ministry of Justice
<u>Observers:</u>	Ben Yallop – Assistant Private Secretary to Lord Chief Justice
<u>Members of Office in Attendance:</u>	Michelle Crotty Trevor Steeples Vanessa Watling Nigel Patrick Helen Stear Nick Mann Robin Linacre Azhar Hasham Emma Marshall Marcie Malcolm Karen Moreton

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1. Apologies were received as set out above.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- 2.1. Minutes from the meeting of 18 November 2011 were agreed.

3. ACTION LOG

- 3.1. The actions from the previous meeting were reviewed.
- 3.2. The Council noted that the Dangerous Dog Offences draft guideline consultation was launched on 15 December, the Drug Offences Definitive Guideline should be ready for publication early in the new year, and the work on a draft guideline for sexual offences is being progressed.

4. ORAL UPDATE ON DANGEROUS DOGS – PRESENTED BY HELEN STEAR

- 4.1. Anne Arnold was commended for having conducted a number of interviews with the media, magistrates and animal welfare organisations. The interviews were uniformly positively reported in the press.
- 4.2. The consultation will be available in large print and will be accessible on the website, as an on-line questionnaire.

5. ORAL UPDATE ON ALLOCATION, OFFENCES TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION AND TOTALITY – PRESENTED BY HELEN STEAR

- 5.1. The Council was informed that the consultation for Allocation, Offences Taken into Consideration and Totality, closed on 8 December. A paper outlining the responses will be presented to the Council at its January meeting.
- 5.2. Detailed feedback on the responses to the consultation will be published alongside the definitive guideline in spring 2012.

6. PRESENTATION ON SENTENCING INDECENT IMAGES OF CHILDREN: PROFESSOR ALISDAIR GILLESPIE, DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY

- 6.1. Professor Gillespie from De Montfort University gave a presentation to the Council on sentencing and indecent images of children. The presentation and subsequent discussion covered issues with the current guidelines, changes in technology and how best to articulate harm and culpability.

7. DISCUSSION ON SEX OFFENCES – PRESENTED BY VANESSA WATLING

- 7.1. The Council followed the presentation by Professor Gillespie by considering how a revised guideline might look.

- 7.2. It was agreed that there was scope for rationalising the current guideline. In doing so the Council would try to address some of the issues that advances in technology had created and also some of the current operational difficulties caused by dealing with the categorisation of large volumes of material.
- 7.3. Further work would be carried out on the guideline which would be re-submitted to the Council in the New Year.

8. DISCUSSION ON CORPORATE FINES – PRESENTED BY NIGEL PATRICK

- 8.1. The papers received from academics regarding corporate fines were considered by the Council. The papers related to the options for Council's consideration regarding the potential draft guideline for Health and Safety offences and also Environmental offences.
- 8.2. The Council discussed which approaches to fining corporate bodies the guideline could include and how the offences could be categorised.
- 8.3. It was agreed that further work would be carried out regarding possible approaches to corporate fines and also to compile a list of offences for potential inclusion in the guideline.

ACTION: FURTHER DISCUSSION PAPER TO BE DEVELOPED AT THE JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING.