

## MINUTES

GBA COMMITTEE MEETING 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019

GLASGOW SHERIFF COURT – COMMON ROOM 5.45pm.

## SEDERUNT

Andrew Stevenson, Ron MacKenna, Jim Bauld, Scott Adair, Craig Dewar, Michael Gallen, David Fiskin, William Lavelle, Tracey Patterson, Lindsay Gaughan, Fiona McKinnon, Emma Crilly, Alison Heron, Katy Wilson, Tracey Mulholland, Edward Gilroy, Desmond Ziolo & Moira Deeney

## APOLOGIES

Lorna McCann

## MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Approved

## TREASURER'S REPORT

In credit

## PRESIDENTS REPORT/CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

## MEMBERSHIP

Moira Deeney confirming that 379 members have re-joined, 95 from last year have not re-joined-membership drive continuing also letters have gone out to those who have not re-joined and to potential new members.

## CPD

Moira Deeney advising that the evening programme has been compiled and confirmed. Family Law residential weekend is next week and Moira Deeney preparing for that and updating the committee in relation to that. Advising that the full day programmes will be sorted in early course. Other ideas being discussed etc. CPD subcommittee to provide further ideas.

## ANNUAL DINNER

Michael Gallen confirming the discussions that have taken place regarding speaker and committee discussing format for the dinner and in particular the wish to do something different to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the GBA.

## GBA Interns

Katy Wilson and Tracey Mulholland advising that they have met the interns regarding response to consultations and the committee wish to advise the membership that the interns are available to assist members.

## Fee Increase

Discussing the 3% increase. Discussing its impact and noting that it is not to be backdated and Fiona McKinnon advising that the regulations have not been placed before parliament at this stage and unsure whether they will be able to meet the deadline of the proposed increase from April 2019.

## Duty Plan

Ron MacKenna bringing to the attention of the committee the Duty Plan that has just been released by SLAB – a couple of firms on that list clearly do not undertake much criminal work. Discussing the problems with firms and solicitors advising the Legal Aid Board with their mandates that they do undertake criminal work and have the relevant experience to be Duty Solicitors, discussing the problems from last year where at least one firm failed to attend their entire police station duty attendances and when they were court duty they didn't attend any follow up work such as Full Committals and Deferred Sentences. Also coming to attention that one firm has passed out their duty week to another firm in Glasgow which is a specialist criminal firm. Discussing the impact of this and whether this can be competent etc.

## AOCB

SALCC – Legal Aid Conference – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Fiona McKinnon advising that she will be attending this and will report back to the committee at the next committee meeting.

## Robertson Review Meeting – Update

The committee discussing at great length this very important report for the profession and concluding that the GBA requires response to this report. Emma Crilly and Fiona McKinnon providing essential feedback to the committee, clearly this is an issue that will affect every Practitioner and it is important that Practitioners have a grasp of the impact of the proposed review. Discussing the impact of any such support of the Law Society of Scotland – does the GBA membership support the Law Society of Scotland? Does the committee wish regulatory powers to be transferred away from the Law Society

Scotland? Noting that SLCC /certain larger firms are in favour of it however discussing the fact that the alternatives have not been costed appropriately and they are very few hard figures to advise the membership of etc.

#### Working Group

Andrew Stevenson & Desmond Ziolo have written to Ms Denholm requesting the GBA have a representation on the working group and noting that Mark Thorley & Ian Moir from LANT are going to be present however GBA committee are considering that they should have a seat at the table in relation to this.

#### Single Civil Legal Aid Working Group Meeting

Fiona McKinnon providing the committee with an update with her attendance at this meeting and advising of the proposals of simplified processing in relation to children/mental health work. Katy Wilson will be attending the next meeting in relation to this and Eddie Gilroy will contact the Legal Aid Board in relation to his previous attendance at the last meeting in relation to the criminal side.

#### Jury Lists

Committee advising that it would still be preferable that the GBA send out the nightly updated Jury Lists.

#### **Criminal Justice Board Meeting**

David Fiskien reporting back to the Committee regarding his most recent attendance at the Criminal Justice Board Meeting and advising that the High Court will be coming to Glasgow Sheriff Court from June and using court 5 -this is to last into 2020 to clear the backlog of High Court cases. Also advising that the Sheriff principal expects that the number of outstanding cases to half in the next 18months – Crown reported that they have a backlog of Summary and Solemn work and the SP advising that the Crown have not been using all the allocated slots in the diet court. Ron McKenna noting the number of prosecutions in Edinburgh and that he has heard from representatives in Edinburgh Bar Association that they have seen marked increase in the diet court and custodies.

#### Domestic Abuse Scotland Act

The committee is eager to hear from members as to whether there are any objections regarding the input of women groups/women's aid etc on the proposed "training" of Sheriff's regarding domestic cases under the new act. Some members have expressed concern regarding their input to the training of Sheriff's. Andrew Stevenson is going to contact the Sheriff Principal regarding this to have the matter clarified and will report back to the committee in early course.

Next committee meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 at 5.45pm