

MINUTES

GBA COMMITTEE MEETING - 3rd June 2019

GLASGOW SHERIFF COURT - COMMON ROOM 5.45pm

SEDERUNT

Andrew Stevenson, Michael Gallen, Ron Mackenna, Katy Wilson, Fiona McKinnon, William Lavelle, Scott Adair, Emma Crilley, Alison Herron, Lorna McCann, Tracey Mulholland, Tracey Paterson, Eddie Gilroy.

APOLOGIES

David Fisken, Lindsay Gaughan, Craig Dewar.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Approved

TREASURER'S REPORT

In Credit

PRESIDENTS REPORT/CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

CPD MEMBERSHIP

MD advising that the 28th May 2019 was the cut off point for those individuals who were members last year and have elected not to re-join the committee – their names have been removed from the database. Moira discussing the continuing membership drive especially for an increase in the number of corporate memberships, advising the committee of her ongoing efforts to obtain new members.

Discussing the ongoing CPD, discussing the upcoming CPD events – full day Criminal Seminar & Full day Family & Excellence in Advocacy to be arranged and committee seeking ideas from members as to any aspects they would wish to see a CPD topic on etc.

COMPLAINTS POLICY

William Lavelle reporting to the Committee his draft complaints policy. Discussing that in detail, comparing that to the faculty of advocates, final draft to be approved and thereafter circulated to members.

ANNUAL DINNER

Discussing in detail the format for the dinner. Speaker/invitations to past presidents etc.

ISSUE WITH BARLINNIE

Discussing the reply from Barlinnie circulated to members. Noting input from Committee members that in recent times the waiting time in Barlinnie has increased again sharply this time with the prison citing that there is a significant increase with the number of video links to different courts throughout Scotland. Clearly there is an underlying staffing issue. The suggestion from SPS that its nothing to do with staff not accurate. DZ was present at Barlinnie when one of the staff members was complaining to another GBA member that there was nothing they could do due to staffing numbers. Discussing the merits with a booking system if members are going to have to wait for a number of hours to get into see the clients. Clearly the benefit of having a non-booking system was that you could turn up and see your client within 1/2 an hour normally, if that is gone then what is the point in not having the facility to book etc. Again, the committee need specific examples from members in order that we can focus our attention directly with the SPS.

GBA INTERNS WORKLOAD

Committee wishing to highlight to members that the interns are there to assist GBA members with the specific legal issues and are there for assistance of all members.

MATTERS REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION

York Street - Committee discussing at length the concerns about York Street, in particular, the lack of facilities that are there - no agent's room, lack of privacy, nowhere to consult with client, facilities in general- approach to be made to the Sheriff Principal regarding this.

Further discussing the issue regarding Court 22 as a Court room for proofs- it is unsuitable Discussing one of the primary resources of complaint could be to use the SPS court user survey - the sheriff principal seems to place a lot of weight on this as well.

GBA SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

committee discussing how to best move the Glasgow Bar Association forward whilst using Social Media Platform such as Instagram, twitter etc.

AOCB

Roberton Report - discussing this at length again highlighting that this is going to be an extremely important issue with the membership - discussing that this is also going to be a divisive issue with the members. Noting that there are a number of criminal practitioners over the years have made repeated observations that they do not value the representation of the Law Society of Scotland. And the representations made on their behalf by the Law Society of Scotland. Many members would be happy to see the authority of the Law Society being removed. Not a unanimous position of the committee and would require a discussion with the GBA membership to ascertain their position on the issue - there is an RFPG event to discuss this matter next week. Emma Crilley, DZ and Fiona McKinnon attending. The main issue with report is the revamping of the SLCC that needs to be reassessed, the cost is a factor as well and timescales - with regards to the cost what the Roberton Review does not entail is the cost of the new regime at all which is of some concern.

GBA Gown

There will be a new system with regards to borrowing the GBA gown– need to sign it out as sometimes it doesn't come back etc.

LENDING LIBRARY - FIONA MCKINNON

Update lending library

Next meeting - 1st July 2019.