

## **MINUTES**

Glasgow Bar Association

Executive Committee Meeting- Glasgow Sheriff Court- Monday 2nd September 2019  
545pm.

### **Sederunt**

Ron MacKenna, Andrew Stevenson, Moira Deeney, Craig Dewar, Desmond Ziolo, Katy Wilson, Tracy Paterson, Tracey Mulholland, Lindsay Gaughan David Fiskin, Jim Bauld, Scott Adair, Fiona McKinnon,

Apologies- Michael Gallen, Emma Crilly, Alison Heron, Lorna McCann, Edward Gilroy, William Lavelle.

### **Minutes of last Meeting**

Approved

### **Treasurer's Report**

In Credit

### **Presidents' Report/ Chief Executives Report**

### **Membership**

Membership stands at 450 to date. MD advising committee that unfortunately there has been no response from Corporate firms that had been written to re Corporate Memberships. Membership drive to continue.

### **York Street**

Following representations by AS and ongoing dialogue, the Sheriff Principal has advised that some business will return to GSC from York Street later this year. This coincides with the reduction of Justice of the Peace Court business meaning that business will be condensed to certain days of the week. A letter was received from the SP outlining the proposed changes- CWH will be returning from the 4th November. If there are continuing difficulties/ concerns regarding the ongoing use of York Street Members are encouraged to bring these matters to the attention of the Committee or raise them directly to the SP. The transfer of business to York Street was an issue that was not raised with practitioners or the GBA- accordingly it is important that the SP and the Scottish Court Service should hear any concerns regarding this issue.

## **Annual Dinner**

Dinner is on 6th September- discussions ongoing regarding prizes- Sub-Committee will have a number of meetings between now and Friday.

## **Issues with Barlinnie**

As members will be aware, Barlinnie contacted MD to discuss the potential of opening the Agents Visits area from 8am rather than 8.30am. In line with the views/ responses obtained from members, we responded to Barlinnie advising that this was a good idea. The Visits Manager advised that there would be further discussions with his staff as there would have to be staffing changes at their end etc.

With regards to waiting times- In the last few weeks members have reported that there has been a reduction in the waiting times to see clients. This is a situation that the committee is monitoring and should any member have a specific complaint then please report this in order that we can raise this with the visits manager.

## **Matters Requiring Special Attention**

Committee discussing the forthcoming vote on the proposal to increase the practicing fee by £10. Members encouraged to vote whether they are in favour of the increase or not.

## **AOCB**

### **Waiting times for access to clients in cells at GSC**

Members have reported a substantial increase in the time waiting to gain access to the cells in GSC to see clients. This is apparently down to “staffing issues” with Geoamey. Members are aware that the number of rooms has been reduced, however the issue has been exacerbated by the staffing issues meaning the “back two rooms” are not being used/ made available to lawyers. The committee understands that Geoamey are in the process of a “massive recruitment drive” and it is hoped that this will resolve the issue. There have been reports that there are days that they do not have sufficient numbers of staff to provide an officer to each court room as per their contract. We understand that there have been letters of complaint sent to Geoamey from the Sheriff Clerks.

Ron MacKenna has advised that he will speak to the manager based at GSC to discuss the ongoing issues and will report back.

## **Jimmy Reid Foundation Annual Lecture**

Committee discussing an email received from this foundation inviting the GBA to sponsor/ advertise in the programme for this event on the 10th October. Committee concluding not to sponsor this event. MD will inform the members about this event.

### **Consultations**

Legal Aid Reform Consultation response- FMcK/ CD/DZ/RMacK finalising response.

Next Committee Meeting- 7th October 2019 545pm