

GLASGOW BAR ASSOCIATION
EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday 17th March 2020
Minutes

- **Sederunt**

- Billy Lavelle, Fiona McKinnon, Moira Deeney, Alison Heron, Tracey Mulholland, Lindsay Gaughan, Umar Hussain, Michael Gallen, Jim Bauld

- **Apologies**

- Craig Dewar, Eddie Gilroy, Lorna McCann, Katy Wilson, David Fiskien, Scott Adair

- **Purpose of meeting**

- To discuss what the GBA is able to do to help members in light of recent development in relation to coronavirus.
- At this time, there were two main issues; the impact on businesses and safety of members.

- **Business Impact**

- Due to court disruptions, there will be a significant impact on businesses. We are seeing long adjournments in summary trial cases and no new jury cases being started meantime.
- We wish to seek assurances and agreement from SLAB in relation to payments that can be made in relation to existing, but not yet concluded matters.
- We understand that the Faculty of Advocates may also be having similar discussions with SLAB.
- BL, FMcK and MD are going to attempt to speak to Colin Lancaster at SLAB tomorrow, Wednesday 18th March 2020, to make specific interim proposals.
- These are as follows;

- **Criminal**

- Summary cases – payment in relation to all cases adjourned as a result of current circumstances
- Time and Lime / Solemn – payment of work done to date

- **Civil and Children's**
 - A&A – payment of work done to date
 - Interim payments for civil legal aid
 - Fees monthly thereafter
 - We will also be asking SLAB to suspend the current duty regulations (as they apply to receipt in certain circumstances of a half fee).
 - After we are able to speak to SLAB, we will disseminate to members and also make contact with other Deans around the country.
 - If no satisfactory response received, we will approach the Law Society. BL, FMcK and MD to liaise with the LSS President asap and provide update.
- **Safety**
 - We are continuing to make contact with various people in relation to same. The current situation in relation to the operation of court continues to be under review. Updates have been requested at the earliest possible opportunity to allow us to inform members.
 - MD continues to liaise with the Sheriff Clerk re court operations
 - Barlinnie - hand sanitizer is available on way in to Barlinnie. Barlinnie has been quiet.
 - Cell area – we are aware that there is a lack of provisions in the cells area. We have been told that there is a 6 -8 week waiting list for hand sanitizer.
 - We are aware that practitioners will face difficulties in relation to the covering of courts etc. We would encourage members to make use of the social media platforms such as the GBA Hub Facebook group with offers of assistance/ requests for same.
 - GBA social events will be suspended for the next two months; this includes the quiz.
 - GBA CPD will also be re-arranged; the Family Law weekend has been cancelled and will hopefully be re-arranged. The Mandatory Ethics course is also affected at this time.
 - We are due to meet with SLAB soon as part of our ongoing meetings and we will contact them to see if this can still go ahead, failing which to have an update provided in writing.
 - The next committee meeting will be kept under review

- **Further information**

- We will endeavour to provide more information to members as a soon as we have it.