

GLASGOW BAR ASSOCIATION
Executive Committee Meeting
Via Video Conferencing
on
Monday 4th May 2020 @ 5.00pm

AGENDA

- **Sederunt**
 - Billy Lavelle, Fiona McKinnon, Craig Dewar, Moira Deeney, Alison Heron, Tracey Mulholland, Lindsay Gaughan, Katy Wilson, David Fiskin, Umar Hussain, Lorna McCann, Michael Gallen, Eddie Gilroy, Scott Adair
- **Apologies for Absence**
 - Jim Bauld
- **Minutes of Last Meeting**
 - 2nd March 2020
 - 17th March 2020
 - 6th April 2020
 - 9th April 2020
 - 15th April 2020
 - All approved
- **Treasurer's Report**
 - Accounts in credit
- **President and Chief Executive's Report** (See Action Points)
 - All continued to next month
- **Matters requiring Special Attention**
 - Coronavirus Update
 - Business Impact
 - a. Response from Heads of Dept
 - i. The Exec Committee have written to the Heads of Dept at the Court to try and have business progress. A copy of the letter sent and response received is posted on the GBA website. We are continuing to communicate with them.
 - ii. FMcK, as part of the Civil LANT, has been updating the Law Society as to the present situation. We would invite any further comments from Members.

1. We understand that there may be an announcement this week re Pleas by Letter.
- iii. Police Scotland
 1. We understand that they have been contacted by the Law Society about the safety arrangements for Police Station Attendances. Various measures have been discussed and concerns voiced. The overall message appears to be from PS that responsibility lies with attending Solicitors.
 - a. **Action:** FMcK, BL and MD to liaise further with Law Society.
 - b. Current position re SLAB payments
 - i. Any feedback from members appears to suggest positive responses to payment times etc from SLAB.
 - ii. There appears to be a lot of work being done behind the scenes between the Law Society and the Scottish Govt. We will continue to update members on any information we receive.
- Engagement with other organisations
 - a. DF meeting with Law Society re Jury Provision Bill
 - i. DF provided an update re the working group that he is part of and understands that 4 options are going to be looked at by the SG – smaller juries, social distancing in existing courts, faster progress to deal with backlog and varying sentencing powers. No times scales planned.
 1. **Action:** DF will report further information.
 - b. CD contact with COPFS – in particular, re recent practice note re remote participation
 - i. CD recently met with Moira Orr and discussed in particular; Letter pleas (discussion ongoing between SCTS and COPFS), CCTV (as offices are closed, there is no procedure for PFs to access, unless urgent custody case), access to court remotely (work is ongoing) and COPFS policy on undertakings (unlikely to change, likely that most undertakings will be cancelled and become cited cases.)
 1. **Action:** remind members re variation to 90 days.
 - c. FMcK and Civil LANT/ Law Society

- i. As per written update.
 - 1. **Action:** updates will be provided as new information obtained.
 - d. FMcK and AH update re Children’s Hearings meetings
 - i. As per AH written update.
 - 1. **Action:** updates will be provided as new information obtained.
 - e. Letter to SCRA
 - i. As per AH written update.
 - 1. **Action:** updates will be provided as new information obtained.
- GBA practical actions
 - a. Provision of sanitisation products
 - i. MD has been in constant dialogue with Estates in relation to this. We have reminded them of their obligations in respect of this. Despite this, we cannot guarantee to members that Estates products will always be available and therefore encourage members to make own arrangements.
 - 1. **Action:** MD to liaise further with JM in Estates
 - 2. **Action:** email to members to advise
 - b. Provision of tea/ coffee facilities
 - i. We have made available tea and coffee making facilities in the hub, along with biscuits, etc. Members are reminded to tidy up after themselves.
 - c. Continuing updates to members including interjurisdictional updates.
 - i. MD has continued to post all updates we receive and we will continue to do so.
- Cell Areas – update
 - a. We had written to GeoAmey to express concerns in relation to the health and safety issues of visiting the cells (copy letter produced on GBA website). As members will now be aware, alternative arrangements have now been made which appear to be working well at present, practitioners should be mindful of observing social distancing for the interview facilities adjacent to court 3.

- Locktons – update
 - a. Following a member query, we were able to liaise with Locktons in relation to payment obligations and impact on cover. Further details of their response have been published on the GBA website.
 - GBA Response to Jury Trial proposed legislation
 - a. The committee have been proactive in responding to SG consultations / Bills. We will continue to monitor the position and make representations where appropriate.
 - Communications with SCTS and SLAB
 - a. As noted, we have been proactive in corresponding with both in order to progress business and payments to members.

- **A.O.C.B**
 - Possible furlough of GBA Staff
 - We had a lengthy discussion in relation to this. We have been very busy lately. We also want to be able to react quickly to any new developments. Decision taken that it is not appropriate to place any staff on furlough but this will continue to be monitored.
 - a. **Action:** Monitor situation
 - Shrieval retirements and elevation of Sh Anwar
 - Sheriffs MacKinnon and Ruxton have recently retired, and we have expressed our thanks to them on the GBA website. Sheriff Anwar has been elevated to SP at SSDG and we have sent on our congratulations. We have been in contact with our SP's secretary who will keep us advised of any other movements.
 - a. **Action:** continue to next meeting
 - SLCC Levy
 - Discussion in relation to same, noting the percentage increase of the levy being higher than inflation. FMcK spoke to Civil LANT in relation to same. There is to be an update published.
 - a. **Action:** BL and MD to write outlining GBA views in relation to same.
 - Law Society payments
 - We welcome the announcement made by the Law Society in relation to the reduction in membership payments.
 - Bail undertakings – members query
 - As noted above, CD spoke to COPFS in relation to same.
 - Meeting with SP

- On 18th March 2020, FMcK met with the SP and Sheriff Clerk to discuss impact of Covid19 upon operation of business.
 - a. **Action:** if any other issues arise, we will further contact
- Derek Ogg QC
 - We were sorry to hear of Mr Ogg's passing. A full tribute will be made in relation to him on the GBA website.
- GBA Dinner
 - It looks unlikely that the annual GBA dinner will take place this year. The social committee are considering options.
- CPD events
 - As noted above, we are hoping to arrange alternative CPD events. However, any member wishing to seek return of their payments for events that have been cancelled, are welcome to do so.
- Government financial assistance
 - We are aware that a further financial assistance scheme was announced today. We are aware that there a number of Govt initiatives available.
- Current Consultations for Information & Consideration
N/a
- Next Meeting – 1st June 2020

contd....Action points/

Action	Owner	Close	Continue
Membership	MD/ALL		2020 membership drive
Social Ideas	LG TM EG		March event
CPD	EDUCATION SUB COMMITTEE		Update
Date for Next AGM	Constitution SC		Update
Update constitution	Constitution SC		Update
Membership Category for those not practising	Constitution SC		Update
Staff Contracts	FMcK and BL		Update
Judgment re late Payments	FMcK		Update

Changes in practice for Civil Practitioners	LM		Update
SLAB Duty Scheme	DF and LG		Update
SLAB Quarterly meeting	MD and Office Bearers		Update
School Mock Court Project	BL		Update
Climate change summit	All		Update
Independent review of complaints handling	BL, MD, EG		Update
Member concern ; PM	CD		Update
Deferred Sentences	All		Update
Foodbank Drive	AH/ UH		Update
Golf Outing / Afternoon tea	Social committee		Update
GBA Charity choice	BL		Update
Card Reader	FMcK		Update
Scottish Sentencing Council consultation	BL and LM		Update