

GLASGOW BAR ASSOCIATION

Executive Committee Meeting

Via Video Conferencing

on

Tuesday 6th October 2020 @ 5.45pm

MINUTES

- **Sederunt**
- Billy Lavelle, Moira Deeney, Fiona McKinnon, Craig Dewar, Alison Heron, David Fiskien, Umar Hussain, Eddie Gilroy, Scott Adair, Tracey Mulholland, Katy Wilson, Michael Gallen

- **Apologies for Absence**
- Lorna McCann, Jim Bauld, Lindsay Gaughan

- **Minutes of Last Meeting**
 - Proposed: FMcK, Seconded: TM

- **Treasurer's Report**
 - In credit

- **President and Chief Executive's Report** (See Action Points)
 - Various action points removed as no longer relevant, agreement that Constitutional reform will be deferred to the next Committee year.
 - Membership - the end of the year is near and membership renewal information will be sent to members
 - Social Ideas – A quiz has been proposed and is currently being organised
 - CPD Sub Committee – the subcommittee will meet before the next executive committee meeting to consider options for next year.
 - **All other action points continued to next meeting**

- **Matters requiring Special Attention**
 - **Court Issues**
 1. Feedback from LANT re funding request

An email has been issued to all solicitors today, which has further information in relation to what the Law Society has requested. This appeared not to be as optimistic as we had hoped.

 - **Action:** FMcK to follow up at the next Law Society Leadership meeting on 27th October
 - **Action:** Continue to next meeting

 2. Fee Review Panel

There has been no date set for a meeting in relation to this. Further, it is anticipated that primary legislation for legal aid reform would be required in relation to any increase and this is not likely to be in the next 12 months.

- **Action:** Continue

3. Feedback from BL, CD and FMcK re meetings with SCTS and COPFS

BL and FMcK met with Neil and Andrea, last week (1/10) re various matters;

- i) CJSW reports – it had been requested that these be put upstairs, either in the robing room or the library, which has now been assessed as not GDPR compliant, despite a previous assessment that it was. BL raised that the present arrangement was to be that reports would be available at the solemn witness area as there would be no members of the public before 09.30, which has proven not to be the case. This is being investigated. A request for reports to be emailed is being elevated up the chain for consideration.
- ii) Cells – noting that there has been an inconsistent approach as GeoAmey are not allowing access before 11am as they have indicated that they cannot make the area Covid secure prior to this. With onset of smaller custody numbers, this may allow access earlier.
- iii) We noted that there has been a drastic reduction in the custody numbers and asked whether the Police were deliberately releasing as many persons as possible due to Covid 19 Central belt measures. SCTS unaware until midweek that Police Service of Scotland had taken measures to ensure decision making for custodies was being rigorously enforced.
- iv) Pleading Diet court – concerns raised about letters not getting to the correct PF for the Diets Courts – discussing use of proforma letter in SSDG. Offering to draft a proforma letter to be used. FMcK has already sent this to the PF for consideration. We asked that the possibility of a mailbox is followed up, dedicated for this purpose. We were advised that this is a matter for the PF and not the court. FMcK has made enquiries with COPFS in this regard.
- v) Canteen – this is not high up the list of priorities for the court. However, they are looking at the possibility of opening the public canteen for take away only. However, this will take approximately 4 weeks to do.

4. Court Programme

There is be 0930 diets to assist with the flow of persons through the court building

- **Action:** remove from agenda

5. Sheriff and Jury trials

We discussed that there is little chance of these commencing this year, however, we would wish to continue to monitor the position

- **Action:** Continue to next meeting

6. Cell area

As above

- **Action:** Continue to next meeting

7. Summary written records and ID position

We understand that there is to a gradual closure of the requirement to produce written records. However, we are unsure at this time what it is proposed that they be replaced with or whether there is to be an attendance requirement

- **Action:** Continue to next meeting

8. Remote Custodies – remove from agenda

9. Bank Holiday Courts

This is to be continued to the next meeting to monitor the corresponding situation in relation to payments. Further, it was noted from a GBA employee that they are now requiring to work during bank holidays because of the custody court sitting to ensure that members had the lists sent to them

- **Action:** Continue to next meeting

10. Member issue Rape Crisis

A meeting with the member who raised this has taken place. Member will make further enquiries relative to matters arising and will revert.

- **Action:** Continue to next meeting

11. Civil Hearings

FMcK will be in contact with Maureen Davidson in relation to same.

- **Action:** Continue to next meeting

12. Court Facilities

This is covered above. It had been hoped that a meeting could have been arranged with Joe Margey in relation to the possibility of a ‘tuck shop’ within the common room, however, it has not been possible for diaries to be co-ordinated so far. There has been a significant cost to the GBA for the provision of tea/coffee/ juice / biscuits so far.

- **Action:** Continue to next meeting

13. Availability of CJSW reports – as noted above

• **Organisational issues**

1. Shrieval Retirements and elevations – continue to next meeting
2. Furlough of GBA staff – this will be discussed by Office Bearers separately
3. Mandatory Ethics course and CPD programme for next year – covered above
4. Subscriptions

There was a detailed discussion about the level of subscriptions and a motion was made for these to be reduced to £100 inc. VAT for the year ahead. This was not passed - 6 votes against to 4 for.

- **Constitutional issues**

1. AGM Date

Wednesday 25th November 2020 at 1800 by video conference has been identified as the date for the AGM

- **Action:** Continue to next meeting

2. Office bearers

Consideration given to the process for applying/ being elected for same. Executive Committee's recommendations for appointment of Office Bearers will be included in Agenda for AGM.

- **Action:** Continue to next meeting

- **Current Consultations**

- **Next Meeting**

3rd November 2020 at 5.45pm by video conference

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
Independent review of complaints	BL, MD, EG		Update

handling			
Foodbank Drive	AH/ UH		Update
Card Reader	FMcK		Update