



glasgow bar association
established 1959

Room 1.29
Glasgow Sheriff Court
1 Carlton Place,
Glasgow
G5 9DA

11th December, 2020

By Email Only
President, VP & Chief Executive,
c.c. Joint LANT
Law Society of Scotland

Dear Colleagues,

Arising from the first meeting of the newly constituted Executive Committee of the Glasgow Bar Association earlier this month, we are writing to seek your guidance and support in relation to a number of issues, which our President Fiona McKinnon canvassed at a Joint LANT meeting at the end of last month.

We are obviously concerned at the offer made via the Tripartite meetings, notwithstanding the hard work done by the Society. We acknowledge that since then the Justice Minister has met with the Law Society Office Bearers and Association Presidents, including our own and we await a revised offer being made.

However, we wish to be ready to advise our members of further action available to them and are in the process of canvassing our members about further action.

We would seek from you as our representative organisation the following:-

1. Guidance about our obligations as officers of the court and our obligations to our clients in the event that direct action is to be implemented for withdrawal of our services. If any associated professional regulations require to be amended to allow further action, please proceed to have those attended to.
2. Please provide guidance to practitioners about remote Jury cases. We have received the Judicial Institute's link and SCTS video guide links. A guidance note from you is requested. We wish to avoid any complaint of defective representation for our members. Is the Society prepared to obtain Counsel's

Opinion about a legal challenge by Defence Agents to the operation of these in the absence of such guidance?

3. In the absence of sanctions for failure to complete a PIDM and in the absence of an enhanced fee from SLAB for this additional work, please confirm if the Society is prepared to seek counsel's opinion on the issue of a Defence challenge to this additional procedure?

4. Please confirm if the Society's media department is prepared to publicise further direct action?

We would be grateful to receive an update within 7 days to allow us to advise our members further. We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

The Executive Committee of the Glasgow Bar Association