

GLASGOW BAR ASSOCIATION
Executive Committee Meeting
Via Video Conferencing
on
Tuesday 1st December 2020 @ 5.45pm
MINUTES

- **Sederunt**

Billy Lavelle, Moira Deeney, Fiona McKinnon, Craig Dewar, Alison Heron, David Fiskin, Eddie Gilroy, Tracey Mulholland, Jim Bauld, Lindsay Gaughan, Michael Gallen, Scott Adair, Katy Wilson

- **Apologies for Absence** – None

- **Minutes of Last Meeting**

Moved: TM, Seconded: JB

- **Treasurer's Report**

In Credit

- **President and Chief Executive's Report (See Action Points)**

- **Social Ideas**

We are hoping to organise something before Christmas, dependant on covid status

- **CPD**

We are hoping to publish our draft programme for 2021 before the Christmas break. The CPD sub committee will meet again

- **Membership**

Membership is coming on well. We will require to do a membership drive again into January 2021.

Action: FMcK will do welcome letter as new President and encourage membership renewal

- All other matters are closed or continued to next meeting

- **Matters requiring Special Attention**

- **Court Issues**

1. Survey of members following Govt response

We have had good feedback in relation to the action taken yesterday, being the St. Andrew's Bank Holiday. The GBA have now been invited to a meeting with the Justice Minister, Communities Minister, EBA and ABA on Friday. It is not known at this stage what the agenda for this meeting will be but we are happy to participate in relation to same. We will require to meet further in relation to this matter

- **Action:** FMcK to write to Law Society to seek specific guidance in relation to actions.

2. LANT request for Govt Response to COVID

As above

3. Fee Review Panel

As above

4. COVID issues in court

We have received no response to our letter recently written to the Clerks. There are some concerns in relation to the cell area and why the facilities at courts 2, 3 and 7 are not being provided by GeoAmey.

- **Action:** FMcK will write to GeoAmey

5. Summary written records and ID position

- **Action:** Remove from the Agenda

6. Member issue Rape Crisis

- **Action:** Remove from the Agenda

7. Court Facilities and commencement of Tuckshop

The tuckshop appears to be a success so far. We will require to continue to monitor this. There is no word on the opening of a canteen downstairs for takeaway food.

- **Action:** Continue to monitor

8. Bank Holiday Courts

As above

- **Action:** Continue to monitor

9. Commencement of Sheriff and Jury cases.

We are pleased to note that these are due to start tomorrow. However, we have not today received the Sheriff and Jury list that we have previously been in the habit of receiving.

- **Action:** MD will chase

10. PDIMs.

This will require to be revisited

- **Action:** Continue to monitor

11. Pleading Diet NG/CWP Proforma.

We wish to encourage members to use these

12. COPFS updates.

CD was able to provide an update last week which was sent to members. There has been nothing further to add since then.

- **Action:** Continue to monitor

13. Jury and Criminal working group updates.

CD was recently invited to participate in this and has indicated a willingness to continue to take part

- **Action:** Continue to monitor

14. Justice Board updates.

DF was able to provide to us a detailed update in relation to his attendance there today. At the end of March 2020, there were 115 outstanding jury trials. There are now 452. Outstanding Summary trials has doubled to approximately 4400. In August, the time between first appearance and trial in the domestic court was 20 weeks, however, this has now been brought down to 17 weeks as there is an extra domestic trials court per week. However, in this time, the corresponding time period in non-domestic cases has increased from 16 weeks to 22 weeks. At March 2020, there were approximately 57 First diets awaiting trial diets; this had increased to 310 in June. It is however, now down to 48. There is going to be one diet court only on a Friday (reduced from two). The SP was hopeful that we would gain back court 6 in or around February 2021, when the High court is set up in Aberdeen, which will increase our capacity for jury trials. The SP did not appear concerned in relation to these figures. The SP is due to report soon to the LP in relation to the virtual pilot.

- **Action:** Email members and request information in relation to unreasonable delays in undertaking times.

- **Organisational issues**

1. Shrieval Retirements and elevations

Continue to monitor

2. Furlough of GBA staff

OBs will continue to liaise with employees in relation to these matters.

- **Action:** Continue to monitor

3. CPD programme for next year

As noted above

- **Action:** Continue to monitor

- **Constitutional issues**

- None

- **A.O.C.B**

- A member has confidentially raised an issue in relation to the working arrangements for the GBA employees. Committee content with decisions made to date and they are regularly reviewed. We would invite any member with concerns to speak to the OBs.
- We would wish to formally note our thanks to BL for all his leadership over the past year; we are pleased to note that he will continue on the committee this year
- We would wish to note our thanks to UH and LM for all their contributions to the committee and association.
- Ken Carter, GBA auditor, is retiring. We would wish to extend our thanks to him for his support over the years and wish him a happy retirement.

- **Current Consultations for Information & Consideration**

- None

- Next Meeting –Tuesday 12th January 2021

contd....Action points/

Action	Owner	Close	Continue
Membership	MD/ALL	Continue to next meeting	2021 membership drive
Social Ideas	LG TM KW EG	Continue to next meeting	Overview
CPD	EDUCATION SUB COMMITTEE	Continue to next meeting	Update
Date for Next AGM	Constitution SC	Continue to next meeting	Update
Update constitution	Constitution SC	Continue to next meeting	Update
Membership Category for those not practising	Constitution SC	Continue to next meeting	Update
Staff Contracts	FMcK and BL	Continue to next meeting	Update
Judgment re late Payments	FMcK	CLOSE	Update
SLAB Duty Scheme	DF and LG	CLOSE	Update
SLAB Quarterly meeting	MD and Office Bearers	CLOSE	Update
Foodbank Drive	AH/ UH	Continue to next meeting	Update
Card Reader	FMcK	CLOSE	Update