

Sentencing Council

MEETING OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

17 May 2024

MINUTES

Members present: Bill Davis (Chairman)
Simon Drew
Elaine Freer
Tim Holroyde
Jo King
Stephen Leake
Rob Nixon
Stephen Parkinson
Johanna Robinson
Beverley Thompson
Mark Wall
Richard Wright

Apologies: Juliet May
Amanda Rippon

Representatives: Christina Pride for the Lord Chancellor (Deputy
Director Head of Sentencing and Parole Policy)
Jacqueline Beard for the Lady Chief Justice (Legal
Adviser to the Head of Criminal Justice)

Members of Office in
attendance: Steve Wade
Vicky Hunt
Ruth Pope
Ollie Simpson
Jessie Stanbrook

Observers: Katie Brock, Lawyer, Criminal Appeal Office
Alison Stradling, Head of Sentencing Teams at
MoJ

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1.1 The minutes from the meeting of 12 April 2024 were agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

2.1 The Chairman informed the meeting that he had recently met with the New Zealand Justice Minister Paul Goldsmith. The government in New Zealand is interested in the advantages and disadvantages of introducing sentencing guidelines.

3. DISCUSSION ON IMPOSITION – PRESENTED BY JESSIE STANBROOK, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

3.1 The Council considered the first set of responses to the Imposition consultation in relation to the first two sections of the guideline and some overarching issues.

3.2 The Council agreed to some amendments to the first two sections suggested by respondents and agreed to return to the topic of the list of cohorts for whom a PSR may be particularly important at a later meeting, owing to time constraints.

3.3 The Council will consider the remaining responses in relation to the remaining sections of the guideline in the June and July meetings.

4. DISCUSSION ON WILDLIFE OFFENCES – PRESENTED BY OLLIE SIMPSON, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

4.1 The Council considered further amendments to the draft proposed hare coursing guideline, ahead of a consultation planned for later in the year.

5. DISCUSSION ON BUSINESS PLAN – PRESENTED BY OLLIE SIMPSON, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

5.1 The Council agreed its Business Plan for 2024/25, due for publication at the end of May [now delayed due to the general election]. It also took note of the latest update to the Sentencing Council's risk register.

6. DISCUSSION ON ANCILLARY ORDERS – PRESENTED BY VICKY HUNT AND RUTH POPE, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

6.1 The Council discussed and agreed the first drafts of guidance on a wide variety of ancillary orders. They also agreed which guidelines should link directly to the guidance on specific orders. The Council will consider the remaining drafts next month.

7. DISCUSSION ON MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS – PRESENTED BY RUTH POPE, OFFICE OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL

- 7.1 The Council considered the first of the items for possible inclusion in this year's miscellaneous amendments consultation.
- 7.2 The Council agreed to consult on providing information in a dropdown on assistance to the prosecution at step 3 of guidelines, making some additions to the Totality guideline and adding the offence of using or keeping heavy goods vehicle if levy not paid (section 11 of the Road User Levy Act 2013) to the offences appropriate for a fine or discharge pages.
- 7.3 The Council agreed that no changes were required to the Communications network offences guideline following recent changes to the Communications Act 2003.
- 7.4 Further potential changes will be discussion at the June and July meetings before consultation in the autumn.