

**SECTARIANISM LEGAL DEFINITION GROUP – MINUTES**

<b>Meeting:</b>	Sectarianism Legal Definition Group
<b>Meeting number:</b>	Four
<b>Date:</b>	04 June 2018
<b>Time:</b>	10.00 – 16:00
<b>Venue:</b>	Caledonian University, Glasgow
<b>Group Members (In Attendance):</b>	Duncan Morrow (Chair)
	Michael Rosie
	Margaret Lynch
	Andrew Tickell
	Alison Logan
<b>Apologies:</b>	Ian Galloway
<b>Guest Attendee:</b>	Chief Inspector Stephen Hazlett, Police Scotland
<b>Secretariat:</b>	David Bell, Scottish Government, (Official Support)
	David Ross, Scottish Government (Official Support)

**Item 1 – Welcome, introductions and apologies**

1.1 The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and passed on apologies from Ian Galloway.

**Item 2 – Meeting with Police Scotland**

2.1 The Chair welcomed Chief Inspector Stevie Hazlett who is based in the Operations and Justice Greater Glasgow Division at Police Scotland and provided him with a brief overview of the groups work and scope for a legal definition.

2.2 Chief Inspector Hazlett informed the group of his background and specifically explained the use of aggravators which can be attached to sectarian-related charges. He highlighted that there can be some incidents where existing charges do not fit easily with the specific sectarian-related incident and whether this could be addressed through the development of a legal definition.

2.3 There followed an open discussion on these matters.

**Item 3 – Minutes from meeting three**

3.1 The minutes of meeting three were reviewed and agreed.

**Item 4 – Lord Bracadale Review**

4.1 The group reflected on the findings of Lord Bracadale’s hate crime review discussed, how a legal definition of sectarianism may or may not assist.

4.2 The group discussed how there is a holding paragraph in the review that refers to the legal definition group.

4.3 The group discussed Lord Bracadale's reference to the common law aggravator and how successful this had been in the courts.

**Action: Group to contact hate crime secretariat to ask any questions they have on Lord Bracadale's report.**

#### **Item 5 – Next Steps**

5.1 Andrew Tickell gave a presentation to the group around options for a legal definition and how these may look.

5.2 The group discussed the need to test a proposed definition and agreed they would like to hear views on the possibility of a legal definition from representatives of community groups at the next group meeting.

5.3 The group agreed that they would report to Ministers as quickly as possible so that the Scottish Government could take forward a consultation on their findings. It was anticipated that two more meetings would be sufficient to achieve this.

**Action: Andrew to share slides of his presentation to the group.**

**Action: Secretariat to invite members of community groups and representatives from some of the Scottish Government funded projects to attend meeting 5.**

#### **Item 6 – AOB**

6.1 The group Chair advised that he will write out to MSP's to attempt to set up meetings to discuss the groups work and scope for a legal definition.

**Action: Group chair to look at writing to MSP's to arrange meetings.**

#### **Item 7 – Date, Time, Venue of Next Meeting**

7.1 The next meeting is on 26 June 2018 in Glasgow.

**Group Secretariat**  
21 June 2018