

**SECTARIANISM LEGAL DEFINITION GROUP – MINUTES**

<b>Meeting:</b>	Sectarianism Legal Definition Group
<b>Meeting number:</b>	Two
<b>Date:</b>	26 April 2018
<b>Time:</b>	10.00 – 16:00
<b>Venue:</b>	Glasgow Caledonian University
<b>Group Members (In Attendance)</b>	Duncan Morrow (Chair)
	Michael Rosie
	Ian Galloway
	Margaret Lynch
	Andrew Tickell
	Alison Logan
<b>Guest Attendee</b>	Katherine Myatt, Justice Analytical Services, Scottish Government
<b>Secretariat</b>	David Bell, Scottish Government (Official Support)
	Stephen Coulter, Scottish Government (Official Support)
	David Ross, Scottish Government (Official Support)

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

1.1 The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**Item 2 – Minutes from meeting one – Matters arising**

2.1 The Chair provided a brief overview of meeting one.

2.2 The Chair acknowledged that there had been considerable interest in the work of the group since the first meeting, and it was noted that there appeared to be considerable misunderstanding about the purpose of the group and the fact that members were invited in an individual capacity rather than to represent the official view of any organisation they are affiliated to.

2.3 The minutes of meeting one were reviewed and agreed.

**Item 3 – Discussion Paper – Communication**

3.1 The Chair provided the group with an overview of the communication received and notes of interest made in recent weeks.

3.2 The group discussed future engagement and how best they could engage and consult with as wide a range of interests as possible within the short lifespan of the group.

3.3 It was agreed that the Chair will be the point of contact for all enquires from organisations, individuals, politicians and media.

**Action: Secretariat to explore potential avenues to engage and consult.**

#### **Item 4 – Current evidence base – Presentation from Justice Analytical Services**

4.1 Findings from social research were presented to the group and included:

- Public Attitudes to Sectarianism in Scotland
- Community Experiences of Sectarianism
- Community Impact of Public Processions
- Scottish Household Survey (2013)

4.2 The group reflecting on the survey results felt that it would be good to speak with Police Scotland on the number of incidents of sectarianism/hate crimes and further discussions on the charge codes being used and how a legal definition of sectarianism may or may not assist.

**Action: Justice Analytical Service to consider whether a short update to include recent survey's is required to update the 2015 evidence review.**

**Action: Secretariat to share the link to research document by James Chalmers.**

#### **Item 5 – Engagement**

5.1 The group felt that the findings of Lord Bracadale would be important to the work of the group.

5.2 Question raised of meetings with some interest groups. Group commented that these could either be through inviting organisations to group meetings or through members meeting organisations individually and reporting back to the group, rather than whole group and should be considered on a case by case basis of who they meet and when.

**Action: Secretariat to arrange initial meeting with Lord Bracadale, Crown Office and Police Scotland.**

#### **Item 6 – Considerations and next steps to take before meeting three**

6.1 The Chair agreed to write to and arrange meetings with Politicians who had expressed an interest in the group.

6.2 The group discussed the importance of Lord Bracadale's Review of Hate Crime Legislation in Scotland. The group agreed that when this is published the conclusions and recommendations from this would need to be fed into the group and may help to shape their proposals on a legal definition.

6.3 The group agreed that a draft legal parameters should be formed regarding a definition.

**Action: Andrew to consider legal parameters of a definition.**

#### **Item 7 – AOB**

7.1 There was no other business.

**Item 8 – Date of next meeting**

8.1 The next meeting is on 8 May 2018 at the Apex Hotel in Edinburgh.

**Group Secretariat**  
2 May 2018