

SECTARIANISM LEGAL DEFINITION GROUP – MINUTES

Meeting:	Sectarianism Legal Definition Group
Meeting number:	Three
Date:	08 May 2018
Time:	10.00 – 16:00
Venue:	Apex Hotel, Edinburgh
Group Members (In Attendance)	Duncan Morrow (Chair)
	Michael Rosie
	Margaret Lynch
	Andrew Tickell
	Alison Logan
Apologies	Ian Galloway
Guest Attendee	David Murdoch, Scottish Government Legal Division
	Ian Logan, Crown Office Legal Division
	Victoria Macdonald, Secretary to the Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation in Scotland
	Carole Robinson, Project Coordinator, Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation in Scotland
Secretariat	David Bell, Scottish Government (Official Support)
	Stephen Coulter, 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 Scottish Government Legal Division

2.1 The Chair welcomed Scottish Government Legal Division and provided a brief overview of the groups work.

2.2 The discussion centred on possibilities of a definition, practicalities of this and process of legislation including any crossover with Lord Bracadale review.

Item 3 – Meeting with the Crown Office

3.1 The Chair welcomed the Crown Office Legal Division and provided a brief overview of the groups work.

3.2 Discussion centred on processes and procedures of Crown Office in relation to hate crime and current legislation.

Item 4 – Meeting with Hate Crime review secretariat

4.1 The Chair welcomed Hate Crime Review Secretariat and provided a brief overview of the groups work.

4.2 The background to Lord Brackadale’s hate crime review was presented to the group and included:

- Discussion around civil law and criminal law.
- Harm caused by hate crime.
- Threatening or abusive behaviour and the stirring up of racial hatred.
- Guidelines for consistency.

4.3 The group reflecting on the what may come out of the hate crime review discussed, how a legal definition of sectarianism may or may not assist.

Item 5 – Minutes from meeting two

5.1 The Chair provided a brief overview of meeting two.

5.2 The minutes of meeting two were reviewed and agreed.

Item 6 – Matters Arising

6.1 The Chair agreed that all stakeholders and interested parties should have the right to respond to a consultation on any draft legal definition.

6.2 The group discussed options for putting a consultation into public space to gather views from interested parties.

6.3 There was agreement among the group that the workings of any definition should be made available after a definition has been released.

6.4 The group will aim to complete the first stage of consideration by the end of June 2018.

Action: Secretariat to arrange a meeting between Chair and the Minister of Community Safety and Legal Affairs.

Item 7 – AOB

7.1 There was a suggestion that the group could look at the working definition of Anti-Semitism developed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

Action: Secretariat to share link to the working definition of Anti-Semitism.

Item 8 – Date of next meeting

8.1 The next meeting is on 4 June 2018 in Glasgow.

Group Secretariat
30 May 2018