

Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Ceartas agus Cùisean na
Dùthcha

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The Rt Hon Lady Dorrian
Lord Justice Clerk
Chair of the Scottish Sentencing Council
Parliament House
Edinburgh
EH1 1RQ

6 April 2023

Dear Lady Dorrian

Following my appointment as Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs, I would welcome an early opportunity to meet with you to discuss the important work of the Scottish Sentencing Council.

I understand and respect the independent role of the Sentencing Council in developing sentencing guidelines, but also in undertaking research and promoting better understanding of the sentencing process.

I would welcome the opportunity to learn more about the progress of the Council's current programme of work, including the on-going development of guidelines on death by driving and the offences of rape and sexual assault and in relation to indecent images of children and likely timescales for next steps, including, public consultation on the guidelines on rape and sexual assault. The developing guidelines are topics of significant public interest, as are the Council's future planned guidelines on domestic abuse, environmental and wildlife crime and the issue of discounting.

I would also welcome the opportunity to discuss how the Council plans to keep its already published guidelines under review, in line with Section 3(6) of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010, and also how the Council will consider the interaction between guidelines as these are introduced.

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
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I look forward to an opportunity to meet to discuss these issues and any other matters relevant to the independent work of the Council.

Yours sincerely



ANGELA CONSTANCE

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