

Minute of Fifth Meeting of Expert Payment Panel

4th October 2019

SLAB, Thistle House, Edinburgh

In Attendance

Neil Rennick	Chair
Ruth Innes QC	Faculty of Advocates
Paul Brown	Scottish Association of Law Centres
Colin Lancaster	Scottish Legal Aid Board
Raymond McMenamin	Scottish Legal Aid Board
Gillian Fyfe	Citizens Advice Scotland
Professor Mike Danson	Economist
Professor Frank Stephen	University of Manchester
Alan McCreadie	Law Society of Scotland
Andrew Alexander	Law society of Scotland

Apologies

Mark Thorley	Law Society of Scotland
Ross Yuill	Society of Solicitor Advocates
Professor Graeme Roy	University of Strathclyde
Ronald Renucci QC	Faculty of Advocates
Ian Moir	Scottish Association of Law Centres

Scottish Government Officials

Denise Swanson	Head of Access to Justice
Kieran Burke	Bill Team Lead, Access to Justice
Steven Ing	Economic Advisor, Justice Analytical Services
Rebecca Smith	Legal Services Regulation, Access to Justice
Jill Stephen-Poller	Legal Aid Policy Officer, Access to Justice
Shona Urquhart	Legal Aid Reform Manager, Access to Justice

Welcome

Neil Rennick opened the meeting and welcomed the members to the panel.

The panel reflected on the last meeting of 6 September. Valued discussions took place in relation to the next steps as we move forward with an intention to narrow down and refine where we are at now.

Agenda Item 1: Presentation on research undertaken by LSS/Alan McCreadie: Ian Moir
This paper explored research in connection with inflationary based increases to fees.

Agenda Item 2: Paper on COPFS: Shona and JAS. This paper explored the differences in funding costs associated with the prosecution and defence of criminal law.

Agenda Item 3: Paper on contracting: SLAB. This paper was circulated immediately prior to the meeting, it was spoken to by SLAB but Panel members were to reflect and discuss in more detail at the next meeting.

Next Steps

Further discussions to take place with regards to contracting and traineeships.

Next meeting – Tuesday 12 November, Scottish Legal Aid Board.