

SCOTTISH CIVIL JUSTICE COUNCIL

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (ICTC)

MINUTES

PARLIAMENT HOUSE, 4.30PM, TUESDAY 14 APRIL 2015

Members present: Lord Tyre (Chair)
Sheriff Sean Murphy
Gavin MacColl (Advocate)
Lauren Wood (SCJC member, Citizens Advice Scotland)
Craig McCorkindale (Director for Civil Courts Reform, Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service)
Cara Archibald (Criminal Justice IT Coordination Manager, Scottish Government)

In attendance: Yvonne Anderson (Depute in Charge of the Offices of Court)
Jane MacDonald (Policy and Legislation Branch, Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service)
Edward McHugh (Deputy Legal Secretary to the Lord President)
Susan Brodie (SCJC Secretariat)
Bridget Lee (SCJC Secretariat)

Apologies: Stuart Duncan (Head of Delivery: Criminal Justice and Parole, Scottish Government)
Marie-Louise Fox (Director of Operations, Scottish Legal Aid Board)
Tony Jones (Solicitor)
Nicola Anderson (Policy and Legislation Branch, Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service)

Item 1: Introduction, welcome, private papers and apologies

1. The Chairman welcomed Sheriff Sean Murphy who was appointed at the SCJC meeting of 16th March 2015. It was noted that Jane MacDonald was in attendance as an observer for the SCTS Policy and Legislation Branch and that Bridget Lee would be taking over the secretariat duties for the Committee. Attendance of others present, and apologies received, were also noted at this the fourth meeting of the ICT Committee.
2. **The Committee agreed not to publish papers 5.1, 5.1A and 6.1.**

Item 2: Minutes of Previous Meeting

Item 2.1: Minutes of previous meeting of 12 January 2015 [Paper 2.1]

3. **The Committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting dated 12 January 2015 [Paper 2.1] subject to some minor amendments to spelling and grammar.**

Item 3: Justice Digital Strategy Implementation

Item 3.1 SCS/Civil Case Management System

4. Mr McCorkindale provided the Committee with an oral update on the current position of the SCTS IT project to computerise the Civil Case Management System (CMS). The development of the new system is being taken forward using an 'agile' methodology which involves the work in progress being tested at frequent intervals as it is being developed.
5. Mr McCorkindale will be meeting with stakeholders in the near future to discuss their requirements for the CMS. The Chair will be one of those consulted in the coming weeks. **The Committee noted that the Chair will raise any comments or questions that Members may wish to pass on.** The Chair will report back to the Committee on these consultation meetings.
6. **It was noted that Mr McCorkindale would provide a written update on the CMS in advance of the next Committee meeting to allow members to consider in advance if there were matters they wished to raise.**

Item 3.2 SG/Justice Digital Strategy

7. Ms Archibald provided the Committee with an oral update on the current position of the Scottish Government's work on the Justice Digital Strategy. Deloitte are producing an overarching business case, due at the end of May 2015, for the following areas: Justice Portal; Online Mediation and Arbitration; Enterprise Collaboration Tool; Digital Evidence Vault; and, Active Directory Integration & Application Integration Capability.
8. Progress has been made on the Justice Portal in the form of a new website 'mygov.scot' which has been designed to provide advice and assistance on a range of matters related to the information being accessed. Information on housing was made available on the website on 1 April 2015, covering mortgage arrears, housing repossession and debt. The next area of information to go onto the website will be victims and witnesses.

Item 4: SCJC work programme

Item 4.1 SCJC update

9. Bridget Lee provided an update on the activities of the SCJC, SCJC Secretariat and other SCJC committees. The Committee noted that the Rules Rewrite Committee is proceeding with new rules and that any related IT implications will be put before this Committee when they arise.

Item 5: Visits

Item 5.1 Report on visits of ICTC for SCJC information [Paper 5.1]

Item 5.1A Report on visits of ICTC for SCJC information [Paper 5.1A]

10. **Following discussion, the Committee agreed that paper 5.1A should be submitted to the SCJC for information, subject to adding more detail to some of the statements in the findings to make their meaning clearer to those who have not read the body of the report.**

Item 6: Civil Justice Council (England and Wales) Report

Item 6.1 Online dispute resolution for low value civil claims [Paper 6.1]

Item 6.1A Online dispute resolution for low value civil claims [Paper 6.1A]

11. The Committee discussed the Civil Justice Council's report on Online dispute resolution (ODR) for low value civil claims and noted that it was a well-written report with an interesting approach that the Scottish courts might move towards in the future.
12. It was envisaged that any move to ODR in Scotland would be in addition to current court-based services and not a replacement for them.
13. **Members agreed that ODR is an area that the Committee could usefully look into and that a paper should be prepared for the SCJC for consideration at the next ICTC meeting.**

Item 7: A.O.C.B

14. There was no other business raised.

Item 8: Date of next two meetings

15. Members noted the next two meetings are scheduled to take place on:

- **Monday 15th June 2015 at 4.30pm**
- **Monday 26th October 2015 at 4.30pm**

**Scottish Civil Justice Council Secretariat
April 2015**