

MANAGEMENT OF HEARINGS SUB-GROUP

MINUTES

TUESDAY 15th AUGUST 2023, 11.00am

In attendance: Lesley King, Marion Robinson, Edi Hanley, Jacqueline Doherty

Apologies: None

Sabbaticals

3 in total - 1 M has had sabbatical extended to end December
1 F still awaiting refresher training course
1 F hasn't responded to any communication and has been removed from our records – although cannot be removed fully until eligible for re-appointment.

Resignations

1F

Panel Strength

Panel Member strength is as follows:

75 PMs in total – 56 F and 19 M 73 active – 55 F and 18 M

Chair qualified 29 PMs – 20 F and 9 M

*This number includes 2 F who have completed their training but have not yet been observed and/or signed off.

Hearing Statistics – 12th June to 11th August

- Deferrals – 25

Of these hearings: 12 RP/child not in attendance, 4 reports late/missing, 1 insufficient information, 2 to appoint safeguarder, 3 grounds at court, 1 SW not in attendance, 1 papers not translated, 2 no interpreter, 1 DNA request

2 hearings - 2 reasons given.

Insufficient information	
RP failed to attend	
Safeguarder appointed	
RP and child not in attendance	
No SW report	
RP incarcerated/unable to attend	
RP failed to attend	
RP and child on holiday	
Safeguarder appointed	
Grounds still at court	

No SW report	
Family failed to attend	
No Safeguarder report	
Family failed to attend	
Attendee (not at present RP) wished child to provide DNA sample	
No safeguarder report	
Young person refused to attend	
Grounds still at court	
RP out of country	
No interpreter	No social worker
Family failed to attend	
Family failed to attend	
Child on holiday/ deferral requested	
Papers not translated	No interpreter
2 nd set of grounds still with sheriff	

*It was noted that an interpreter had been arranged for hearing, however as there are only couple Greek interpreters they unfortunately got called elsewhere on the day, therefore out with SCRA control.

- Swaps

June - 15 f2f July – 6 f2f Aug – 2 f2f and 1 v Total 24

In addition to this 3 case swaps to allow for PM continuity. 19th July, 25th July and 8th August.

- Cancelled hearings

6 in total; 3 no cases allocated 1 reporter annual leave 1 reporter absence 1 no reason given

In addition on three sessions one case had to be cancelled – out with SCRA/CHS control (12th June, 13th July, 1st August).

- Standby

None

- Continuity

3 cases.

- Cross-area assistance

- **Additional Hearings**

3 – 1 emergency transfer (21st June), 1 2WD CPO (31st July), 1 8WD grounds (8th August)

Question had been asked about a PHP also being added to the 8th WD hearing slot – it is likely this is something which had been missed or short notice and therefore added, however reminder to be given that routine hearings such as PHP should ideally be scheduled in a planned hearing slot.

Pastoral Care

4 PMs have received pastoral care.

AOB

Previously discussed complaint in respect of reporter conduct has now been concluded. One issue for concern in terms of Management of Hearing is relating to layout of room, which still has layout similar to that used during Covid. SCRA to look at room layout to avoid similar situation, where reporter is unaware of impact due to inability to see PMs, arising in future. Couple solutions discussed including PMs choosing to sit elsewhere or moving reporter's table slightly. This can be given further consideration by SCRA during remodeling of hearing room 2.