

MANAGEMENT OF HEARINGS SUB-GROUP MEETING – TUESDAY 7th MARCH 2023, 11.15am

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

Sabbaticals

8 in total.

Recorded delivery letters sent to three PMs who haven't been responding/engaging, with a request to respond by 20th March, after this date it will be assumed their service will end.

One other PM who hasn't been engaging and as all other forms of communication have failed a recorded delivery letter may also be required.

4 other PMs are on sabbatical – 3F and 1M.

For 1 of the female PM included here resignation to be confirmed.

Resignations

1 male 2 female

Panel Strength

69 PMs in total - 52F and 17M 61 active – 46F and 15M

28 chair qualified – 19F and 9M – all active chairs

Hearing Statistics – 16th January to the 10th March

- Deferrals – 3 virtual, 19 face to face

Of these hearings: 4 child/children not in attendance, 7 RP not in attendance, 4 RP had not received papers, 8 reports late/missing, 1 SW not in attendance, 1 Safeguarder not in attendance, 2 to appoint safeguarder, 3 emergency hearings, 2 LR not in attendance. 1 more time needed to secure placement. 6 hearings - 2 reasons given.

F2f	RP hadn't received papers	
F2f	RP hadn't received papers	
F2f	Case SW could not attend (SW requested deferral)	Safeguarder could not attend
F2f	No SW report received	
F2f	RP and LR did not receive papers on time	
F2f	Additional report received late	
F2f	Safeguarder appointed	
F2f	Emergency hearing	
F2f	Emergency hearing	
F2f	RP did not receive the translated papers	
F2f	Child failed to attend	RP failed to attend
F2f	Child failed to attend	RP failed to attend
F2f	Child failed to attend	RP failed to attend
F2f	RP failed to attend	
F2f	Children failed to attend	RP failed to attend
F2f	No SW report	
F2f	No SW report	
F2f	Awaiting safeguarder report	
F2f	LR unavailable	
F2f	Safeguarder appointed	
F2f	No SW report	
F2f	Child's LR unable to attend	RP unable to attend (prison)

F2f	RP unable to attend (prison)	
F2f	More time required to secure place of residence	
v	Awaiting safeguarder report	
v	Emergency hearing	
v	Safeguarder report unavailable	

- Swaps

January – 4 f2f, 2 v February – 9 f2f, 2 v March – 7 f2f Total 24

2nd March - first time all 3 PMs have had to swap.

- Cancelled hearings

Virtual - 3 no cases allocated Face-to-Face - 11 no cases allocated
-1 reporter annual leave

These are generally spread across the week: Mon - 3, Tues – 3(v), Wed – 3, Thur – 1, Fri – 5

- Standby

None

- Continuity

1 There have been 3 this period – 27/1, 30/01 and 24/2. Further continuity request on 30/1 as no substantive decision yet able to be made, this will now be 27th March, so included in next stats.

- Cross-area assistance

3 of these: Aberdeen City on 18th Jan and 2nd Feb SE Scotland on 22nd Feb

- Additional Hearings

1 CPO added to hearing slot.

Request by child for hearing to be held in GS secure unit – PMs from previously cancelled session asked to cover this, with 2 out of 3 able to do so.

Short discussion around difficulties for some secure units getting young people to hearing centres and therefore heavy reliance on virtual element of hearing. Good that young persons views are being considered and SCRA have been able to accommodate this request. Not easy for other areas to get reporters or PMS to be able to attend hearings in secure units due to travel involved.

Not sure what to expect at the hearing as previously no laptops allowed in the centre, so all hearing notes and ROP may need to be hand written. Follow up required to be able to set expectations for future hearings.

- Police presence

This has been requested for 2 hearing slots (same case as previous police presence)

Pastoral Care

5 PMs have received pastoral care.

AOB

There was a brief discussion around the impact of auto-generated messaging and question raised as to whether this impacted rota preparation - It doesn't appear to affect rota as many either don't check emails or ignore these ones. It may be worth encouraging volunteers to get PowerApps prompts to their personal email address.

April rota ready to go.

May and June won't be published until buddies have been identified and allocated.

It would be helpful for us to gather some Buddy System feedback as previously this worked well.