

Criminal Justice Committee

8th Meeting, 2021 (Session 6), Wednesday 27 October 2021

Roundtable

Note by the clerk

Introduction

1. The Criminal Justice Committee is holding a series of roundtable meetings about subjects within its remit.
2. One roundtable evidence session will take place on 27 October 2021.
3. The subject of the roundtable evidence session is the **misuse of drugs and the criminal justice system**.

Participants

4. The following people will be taking part in the roundtable—
 - **Anthony McGeehan**, Procurator Fiscal, Policy and Engagement, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
 - **Superintendent Norrie Conway**, Police Scotland
 - **David Liddell**, Chief Executive Officer, Scottish Drugs Forum
 - **Becky Wood**, Lived/Living Experience representative, Scottish Drug Deaths Taskforce
 - **Neil Richardson OBE**, Vice Chair, Scottish Drug Deaths Taskforce
 - **Louise Stevenson**, Lived Experience Participant, Scottish Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (SACRO)
 - **Leeanne Hughes**, Shine Programme Mentor, Scottish Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (SACRO)
 - **Natalie Logan MacLean**, Chief Executive Officer, Sustainable Interventions Supporting Change Outside (SISCO)
 - **Peter Krykant**, activist and campaigner

Format

5. Members of the Committee will be attending the meeting in person. The witnesses will be participating in the meeting using a video link. This is due to the rules on social distancing.

Topics

6. The roundtable evidence session on the misuse of drugs and the criminal justice system will be a chance to discuss topics such as—
 - The work being done by Police Scotland and the Scottish Government to address Scotland's high drug deaths rate. This might include measures to enable more regular reporting on suspected drug deaths in pursuit of getting more people into treatment quickly; the current pilot project where police officers carry and administer Naloxone; and tackling the illicit supply of drugs into Scotland and the role of serious and organised crime groups.
 - The work being done by the Scottish Drugs Death Taskforce to improve the health outcomes for people who use drugs and to reduce the risk of harm and death.
 - The role of the Crown Office and Prosecution Service in the prosecution of cases relating to the supply and use of illegal drugs in Scotland.
 - Tackling drug use in the prison system, looking at the support provided to prisoners during their time in prison and the arrangements that are made to provide the best support to prisoners who have a drug problem on their release.
 - The legal framework that currently criminalises the misuse of certain drugs and the related issue of whether one policy that may assist in tackling drug deaths is the provision of 'safe consumption rooms'.

**Clerks to the Committee
October 2021**