**Minutes of Meeting**

Edinburgh Sheriff Court held a meeting of the Personal Injury User Group on **26 November 2024 at 4.15pm**

Present:

Sheriff Robert Fife, Chair

Sheriff C Dickson

Sheriff I Nicol

Sheriff K Campbell KC

Sheriff D Keir

Sheriff A Noble

Sheriff CA Walls

Kate Bennett, Advocate

Simon Hammond, Digby Brown

Gordon Tolland, SLAB

Peter Crooks, Lanarkshire Accident Law

Andrew Lothian, DWF- FOIL

Natalie Gibb, Clyde & Co

Richard Poole, Thorntons Law

Andrew Ireland, DAC Beachcroft

Eoin Quinn, Keoghs

Mary Morrison, Dundee City Council

Morag Shepherd, NHS CLO

Richard Singer, Thompsons

Craig Anderson, Court of Session PIUG member

Fiona Pryke, HEO

Daniel Malloy, Sheriff Clerk Depute

Naomi Porter, Sheriff Clerk Depute

Dave Young, Senior Executive Officer, Edinburgh Sheriff and Justice of the Peace Cou

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1.****2.****3.****4.****5.****6.****7.****8.****9.****10.** | **Apologies etc**Bruce Shields and Catherine CurrieWelcome to Sheriff CA Walls who is joining the National Personal Injury Team as of January 2025**Minutes of Previous Meeting: 27 August 2024**No amendment, minutes were approved.**Matters Arising from Minutes not otherwise on the Agenda*** The Q&A session in September 2024 was well attended (158 attendees), many thanks to Sheriff Nicol and Fiona Pryke for their hard work is arranging.

Training 2025 to be added to agenda for next meeting.**Stats Update August 2024 to October 2024**Writs warranted – 1796Motions lodged – 3983Opposed motions lodged – 254Proofs/PBAs/debates proceeded – 11Proofs discharged due to lack of court time – 4The court is receiving approx. 120 motions and 5 opposed motions per day.Andrew Lothian noted a 30% increase in business in the last quarter.**IT Developments**No further updates from last meeting**ASSPIC – Enhancing profile*** Sheriff Fife has been pro-active in enhancing the profile of AASPIC
* Sheriff Fife has had meetings with Malcolm Graham, the new Chief Executive of SCTS; Lindsay Montgomery, Chairing Member of JABS; and the Lord President, Lord Carloway, all very supportive
* Sheriff Fife gave the keynote address at a PI conference organised by the Royal Faculty of Procurators Glasgow in October 2024 promoting ASSPIC to all PI practitioners.
* Sheriff Fife recently contributed to an Outreach Event organised by Judicial Office for those interested in applying to JABS for the new PI sheriff position.
* The court is looking at changing the name from All-Scotland Sheriff Personal Injury Court (ASSPIC) to National Personal Injury Court (NPIC). Feedback has been very positive: WATCH THIS SPACE.

**Update*** The new PI sheriff is expected to be in post by June 2025. Meantime, part-time Sheriff I Anderson and Sheriff P Anderson will assist in covering PI courts until then.
* Court 19 update – work will start in December 2024 and should be completed around February 2025.

Court 18 – Procedural court on Monday – 4+ day proofs* Court 19 – 1-3 day proofs starting on Tuesday and a Friday procedural court.

**Proofs*** The court is currently running a proof each week; the court has flexibility in running more than one proof and once Court 19 is up and running 2 live proofs a week will be able to be heard.
* Sheriffs are continuing to issue ex tempore decisions where appropriate, to give parties early decisions.

**Court of Session PIUG*** Sheriff Fife reported briefly on the meeting on 11 September 2024 which had focused on CoS protocols. Sheriff Fife explained how we tend to use Guidance Notes in ASSPIC for updating on practice rather than more formal Practice Notes unless considered necessary.
* Craig Anderson is leaving the CoS for a new position at the Office of the Advocate General – we will be informed of his replacement in due course.
* We will continue to liaise and share information and best practice for PI cases.

**AOCB*** Andrew Lothian suggested a separate opposed motion inbox at the last PIUG meeting – this has now been implemented and is up and running for business.
* Kate Bennett asked about enrolling motions to discharge the 1st pre-proof hearing in Chapter 36A cases where no orders were required. There was no difficulty with this.
* .QOCs – where a party is looking to disapply QOCs, a separate motion from that party will always be required.
* Procedural Courts – Procedural Courts are now on a Monday and a Friday – there will be one list sent out of all cases calling in that court with the agent.s name beside their cases with the 10am/2pm links at the foot of the email – this is to streamline the court preparation process for the team in the office.
* 35 Hour week – the court now closes at 4pm, this includes the public counter and the phone lines, anything very urgent should be in before 4pm, everything else can still be lodged between 6am and 5pm in the usual way and will be picked up in the morning (E-motions are still to be enrolled prior to 12:30pm as per the usual rules)
* Emails and document lodging – the National.Motions inbox is for the enrolling of motions only – any chase up emails about urgent motions or motions for hearings going off should be sent to the NationalPiCourt inbox, the National.Motions inbox works in date order so any queries can get lost or missed.
* Hybrid proofs – motions for hybrid proofs should be enrolled 21 days prior to the proof; this is to ensure productions can be sent out to witnesses as per the usual guidance and the court has time to set up the link to the court with IT.

**Date of next meeting: 25 February 2025 at 4:15pm by WebEx**  |  |