



PRESIDENT OF THE
FAMILY DIVISION

**The Transparency Implementation Group:
Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2021
(remote meeting via Microsoft Teams)**

Attendees: The President of the Family Division (Chair)

Mrs Justice Lieven (Co-Chair)

HHJ Madeleine Reardon (Co-Chair)

Jack Harrison (Co-Secretary)

Olivia Kirkbride (Co-Secretary)

Nicola Shaw

Jennifer Gibbon-Lynch

Angela Frazer-Wicks

Clare Walsh

Dr Natalie Byrom

Lisa Harker

Dr Julie Doughty

Charles Hale QC

Femi Ogunlende

Guy Vassall-Adams QC

Olive Craig

District Judge Adem Muzaffer

Tom Foley

Sian Harrison

Lucy Reed

Ana Popa

Adam Lennon

Jack Cordery

Rachel Anderton

Helen Lincoln

Representatives from the Family Justice Young Peoples Board

Apologies: Laura Kocan

Maxine Monk

1. Introduction

The President of the Family Division welcomed the group members and briefly summarised the background to the group's formation; its aim was to implement the Review's recommendations in a proportionate way utilising the considerable expertise available within it. The work would be divided between various sub-groups which would proceed at different timescales, however it was hoped that most of the group's work would be completed within 12 months.

2. How to approach the work of the Transparency Implementation Group

a. Division of labour

The President of the Family Division suggested the establishment of four sub-groups in order to implement the Review's recommendations, these would best utilise the skills and interests of the group members. This was agreed.

The core membership in each sub-group would consist of representation from: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS), the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the Department for Education (DfE), the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), the Family Rights Group, the Family Justice and Young People's Board (the FJYPB) and the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS).

The sub-groups were:

- Press attendance and reporting
- Anonymisation and publication of judgments
- Data collection
- Media engagement

Action: Group members would confirm which sub-group(s) that they wished to join.

The following points were made/discussed:

- That there would be fluidity, overlap and regular communication between the sub-groups, and the role of the secretaries would be key.

- That key stakeholders, including people with lived experience, would be represented in each sub-group.
- That the impact of the group's work on families and children would be integral to the work of all the sub-groups and would be evaluated on an ongoing basis. It was recommended that one person in each sub-group would be tasked with oversight of this issue and would engage in dialogue with their counterparts in other sub-groups.

b. Etiquette

The following points were made/discussed:

- A number of group members had been approached by interested parties, prior to the first meeting, to discuss matters relating to the group's work. It was therefore necessary to produce guidance explaining how external communication would be managed: this would set boundaries and explain the reasons behind these.
- In terms of what individuals could say or publish, there was a need for a transparent approach which balanced freedom of expression with proportionate measures which would allow the group to work collegiately and effectively.
- Live tweeting, or the discussion of specific details from meetings would be unhelpful as this could occur before firm conclusions had been reached, and could therefore impact on the group's ability to have open, candid discussions or result in mixed messaging.
- There was a need for regular, prompt updates about the group's work regarding where the group had reached and what was happening next, e.g. via publishing minutes or updates on the Judiciary Website (on a dedicated Transparency Implementation Group page). The group's terms of reference, and the sub-group's membership and workstreams, would also be published.
- The names of FJYPB members would not be publicised.

Action: Jack Harrison to be the point of contact for external requests for information.

Action: Mrs Justice Lieven and Jack Harrison to produce a brief communication etiquette document covering external communication by the group, sub-groups and individual group members.

c. Timetable

The chairs and secretaries would plan the sub-group meetings with the aim of having the next whole group meeting in March 2022.

3. Terms of Reference of the Transparency Implementation Group

It was recommended that, in relation to the pilot work, the terms of reference included the need for liaison with media organisations and the Media Lawyers Association.

Action: Lucy Reed had prepared a draft terms of reference document which would be circulated to the group for their comments.

4. AOB

No matters were raised.