

Sentencing Academy News

April / May 2022

Key Issues in Sentencing seminar

We are holding the first in our new series of *Key Issues in Sentencing* seminars on Thursday 23 June at the UCL Faculty of Laws. The event will run from 5pm to 6.30pm and is co-hosted by the UCL Centre for Criminal Law.

The speakers at this seminar will be:

- Tom Little QC, Senior Treasury Counsel at the Central Criminal Court on 'Where are we with whole life sentences?'
- Dr Elaine Freer, Barrister, 5 Paper Buildings and College Teaching Officer, Robinson College, University of Cambridge on 'Deferring sentencing'
- Dr Rory Kelly, Lecturer in Criminal Evidence and Criminal Law, UCL Faculty of Laws on 'Sentencing for multiple crimes and the principle of totality'

To register to attend this event, please go to: [Key Issues In Sentencing Event Tickets, Thu 23 Jun 2022 at 17:00 | Eventbrite](#)

New Sentencing Academy publications

We have recently published three new reports. The latest paper in our *Issues* series is authored by Professor Gwen Robinson and examines the use of pre-sentence reports. We have published a paper by Professor Julian V. Roberts and Professor Andrew Ashworth examining the guidance currently provided by the Sentencing Council in respect of ethnic disparities in sentence outcomes and considering what this guidance may require sentencers to do in practice. A Mental Health and Sentencing literature review we conducted for the Scottish Sentencing Council has also been published.

Pre-Sentence Reports: A review of policy, practice and research is available [here](#).

Sentencing Guidance, the Sentencing Council, and Black & Ethnic Minority Offenders is available [here](#).

Mental Health and Sentencing: Literature Review is available [here](#) and a blog post published to accompany it is available [here](#).

The Kalisher Trust / Sentencing Academy Internship

Applications are now open for the Kalisher Trust / Sentencing Academy internship. This remote internship involves a commitment of 7.5 hours per week (which can either be worked as one full day or spread flexibly across the week) and will commence in September/October 2022. The intern will provide research assistance and conduct other work for the Sentencing Academy, as well as producing a larger piece of research to be published under their own name.

We are delighted that Anna Draper, our 2021/22 intern, has secured pupillage at QEB Hollis Whiteman chambers and will commence her career at the Bar in Autumn 2023.

Full details about the Kalisher Trust / Sentencing Academy internship are available [here](#).

Other News

Increase to magistrates' sentencing powers

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 contained a provision that doubled magistrates' maximum sentencing powers for a single offence from six months to 12 months but this had not been brought into force. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 (Commencement No. 33) and Sentencing Act 2020 (Commencement No. 2) Regulations 2022 has now brought this very significant sentencing reform into force from 2 May 2022. The Ministry of Justice has expressed a hope that this change will contribute to reducing the Crown Court backlog by keeping more cases in the magistrates' courts.

The announcement of the commencement of this provision is available [here](#).

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 receives Royal Assent

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 has received Royal Assent and this Act makes some important sentencing changes, including: expanding the ambit of whole life orders for certain murders; increasing the maximum sentence to life imprisonment for child cruelty offences and for causing death by dangerous driving and by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs; introducing a new mandatory life sentence for killing an emergency worker whilst committing a crime; introducing a new range of starting points for children convicted of murder; and moving the automatic release date for certain violent and sexual offenders sentenced to between four years and seven years from halfway to two-thirds.

The announcement of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 receiving Royal Assent is available [here](#).

Sentencing Council round-up

The Sentencing Council has published revised guidelines covering burglary offences and child sexual offences and has also opened a consultation on revised guidelines for animal cruelty offences following recent legislative changes that have increased the maximum sentence for certain offences from six months' to five years' imprisonment.

The revised child sexual offences guidelines come into effect on 31 May 2022 and are available [here](#).

The revised burglary guidelines come into effect on 1 July 2022 and are available [here](#).

The consultation on the revised guidelines for animal cruelty offences is open until 1 August 2022 and is available [here](#).



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