

FAMILY LAW COMMITTEE: ACTIVITY REPORT

Purpose

1. To update the Council on activities undertaken by the Family Law Committee since the Council's last meeting and to give an indication of potential future business.

Background

2. The Family Law Committee was established by the Council on 10 June 2013 and last met on 10 February 2014.

Discussion

3. The following items of business have been considered by the Family Law Committee:

3.1 Simplified divorce – extension of simplified divorce procedure to cases where there are children under the age of 16

The Committee considered draft rules on the extension of simplified divorce to cases where there are children under the age of 16. After discussion the Committee instructed the Deputy Legal Secretary to prepare revised draft rules for consideration at its next meeting.

4. The Family Law Committee has noted that the Scottish Government proposes to bring forward policy papers in a number of areas within the Committee's remit. These include:
 - Adoption and permanence
 - The Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill
 - The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill
 - The voice of the child
 - An EU Regulation on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters
 - Arbitration, ADR and mediation in family cases
 - Bar reporters

Recommendation

5. The Council is invited to note:

- the activity of the Family Law Committee since the Council's last meeting
- the potential future business of the Committee.

SCJC Secretariat

February 2014