

**Minutes of the ACJRD (Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development)**  
**18th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Friday, 11th October 2019**

**Venue: The Richmond Education and Event Centre, Brunswick St. North, Dublin 7.**

**Present:**

Maura Butler (Chairperson)	Deirdre Byrne
Yvonne Daly	Leonora Doyle
Lakshmy Gunawardhana	Liz Heffernan
Michelle Johnston	Susan Leahy
Gerry McNally	Deirdre Manninger
Jim Mitchell	Tony O'Donovan
Kieran O'Dwyer	Paula Scully
Dave Sheahan	Pauline Shields

**In attendance:** Danelle Hannan (ACJRD Manager), Katherine Daly (ACJRD Administrator) and Jon Byrne (Browne Murphy & Hughes)

**Apologies:**

Yvonne Furey, Síle Larkin, Denis Murray, Finbarr O'Leary and Rowena Toomey

**1. MINUTES OF 17th AGM of 2018**

There were no questions or issues arising from the minutes of the 17th AGM. These minutes were proposed by Dave Sheahan, seconded by Jim Mitchell, and adopted.

**2. CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS**

ACJRD is currently in discussions with the landlord regarding the refurbishment of the ACJRD offices. A rental increase which was applied in January was removed following discussions. This is an ongoing issue and the Chairperson and Treasurer have arranged a meeting with members of the Board of the Spade Enterprise Centre to determine if ACJRD can be accommodated on the premises during the refurbishment period.

Maura Butler, Chairperson, outlined the events which ACJRD hosted since the last AGM.

**(i) Child Defendants and Child Witnesses in Court - Contemporary Challenges for Juvenile Justice**

The ACJRD and the ACJRD Juvenile Justice Working Group held the seminar '*Child Defendants and Child Witnesses in Court - Contemporary Challenges for Juvenile Justice*' at the Education Centre, Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7 on Thursday, 29th November, 2018.

This event was chaired by **Professor Ursula Kilkelly** and featured **Judge John O'Connor**, **Vivienne Foley** and **Professor Michael Fitzgerald**. The presentations were well received and were followed by an animated discussion.

### **(ii) ACJRD Members' Networking Event**

The ACJRD Members' Christmas Networking Event took place in the Blue Room of the Law Society of Ireland in December 2018. This event featured a Restorative Justice Working Group Seminar and was followed by a genteel seasonal networking reception with mulled wine and mince pies.

Dr. Ian Marder, Maynooth University, spoke on the "*Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)8 concerning Restorative Justice in Criminal Matters*".

### **(iii) 12th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture**

The 12th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture was delivered by Professor Claire Hamilton, Maynooth University. The lecture entitled "*Criminal Justice Culture(s) in Ireland: Quo Vadis?*" took place in the Jury Room of the Criminal Courts of Justice on **Wednesday, 6th March 2019**.

As always, this event was well attended and Prof. Hamilton's lecture was well received and her paper is available in the relevant publication section of ACJRD's website.

ACJRD thanked the staff at the Criminal Court of Justice for their continued assistance in hosting this annual memorial lecture.

In addition, it was noted that ACJRD is delighted that a member of the Courts Service has joined its Council.

### **(iv) Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference: *Sexual Offences: The Challenge of Balancing Rights in the Criminal Justice System***

This one day conference was a collaboration of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, The Department of Justice and Equality, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS), Irish Prison Service, An Garda Síochána, The Probation Service and the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD). The lead partner for 2019 was the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, who financed the event and conference participants attended free of charge. The Department of Justice kindly facilitated the use of the Dublin Castle venue.

Plenary speakers at the conference were:

- **Charlie Flanagan**, TD, Minister for Justice and Equality
- **Tom O'Malley**, BL
- **Vivian Geiran**, Director, The Probation Service
- **Assoc. Prof. Liz Heffernan**, Trinity College Dublin
- **Noeline Blackwell**, CEO, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre
- **Peter McCormick**, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Nine workshops took place during the Conference. Thanks, were extended to all who volunteered as workshop rapporteurs and to those members of ACJRD's Council and from the Lead Agency, The DPP's Office, who chaired the Conference workshops.

A report containing plenary presentations and summaries of the workshop presentations and participant discussions are prepared annually for publication on ACJRD's website.

#### **(v) 'Bail Supervision Scheme' Seminar**

The ACJRD seminar '*Bail Supervision Scheme*' was held on Tuesday, 10th September 2019, at the offices of the Irish Youth Justice Service at Miesian Plaza, 50-58 Baggot Street Lower, Dublin 2.

This seminar was presented by:

- **Tony O'Donovan**, IYJS (ACJRD Council)
- **Fiona Murphy**, Extern
- **Stephen Coughlan**, Extern (present at today's conference)
- **Dr. Catherine Naughton**, University of Limerick

The Bail Supervision Scheme (BSS) offers an alternative option to our court system when dealing with the remand of a young person during the criminal trial process. The BSS presents the presiding judge with an option of granting bail with intensive supervision.

By reducing the need for custody remand places, the BSS also provides an opportunity to those working in Juvenile Justice to focus on developing successful community resources designed to prevent young people being detained in a youth justice facility and on aiming to prevent them from engaging in future criminality. Outcomes of the BSS recorded to date indicate that recidivism rates have been reduced and those engaging with the scheme want more research in this area.

ACJRD was delighted to be able to help to showcase The Bail Supervision Scheme which has received acknowledgement as a huge success story. It has been nominated for the Civil Service Excellence and Innovation Awards as well as for an international award.

#### **(vi) ACJRD Report Launch 'Unlocking the Power of Data for Criminal Justice Research, Policy-Making and Practice'**

The ACJRD 21st Annual Conference Report '*Unlocking the Power of Data for Criminal Justice Research, Policy-Making and Practice*' was launched on Tuesday 10th September 2019, immediately before the "Bail Supervision Seminar".

Thanks, were extended to the Irish Prison Service and the prisoners of Arbour Hill for the printing of this report.

#### **(vii) ACJRD 22nd Annual Conference: 'Behind Closed Doors: Crimes of Violence, Coercive Control and Abuse in Family and Intimate Relationships'**

This conference, held earlier today, featured the following speakers:

- **Charlie Flanagan** TD, Minister for Justice and Equality
- **Carmela Apostol**, Violence against Women Division – Council of Europe Secretariat of the Istanbul Convention monitoring mechanism

- **Professor Marianne Hester**, OBE, FAcSS, School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol
- **Judge Colin Daly**, President of the District Court
- **Joan Smith**, Author and Journalist
- **Dr Ian Marder**, Department of Law, Maynooth University
- **Callie Zinsmeyer**, Mediator, Case Worker at Restorative Justice Services
- **Siobán O'Brien Green**, Trinity Research in Childhood Centre, Trinity College Dublin

Eight workshops took place during the Conference. All the conference rapporteurs who volunteered at this event were thanked, as were those members of ACJRD's Council, who chaired the Conference workshops.

This conference aimed to shine a criminal justice lens on criminal harm done within intimate environments. Such discourse has traditionally been largely considered in civil family law discourse. The ratification of the Istanbul Convention as implemented in national legislation was the contextual backdrop.

### **ACJRD COUNCIL**

ACJRD Council Members meet eight times a year with each Council Member taking it in turns to host a meeting at their place of work. Meetings are held on a Tuesday after working hours and it is a testament to the dedication of each of the volunteers that they attend these meetings with such regularity and contribute to discussions with such enthusiasm. Furthermore, they engage in policy matters between meetings.

In line with recent regulatory structuring ACJRD is a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) now, retaining its Charitable status. Council members have been taking part in compliance training in order to ensure that they and ACJRD CLG are compliant with all regulatory matters.

On behalf of the Membership, Maura thanked the dedicated Council Members: Yvonne Daly (DCU), Shane Kilcommins (UL, represented by his alternate, Susan Leahy), Gerry McNally (Probation), Deirdre Manninger (DPP, represented by her alternate Deirdre Byrne), Jim Mitchell (IPS), Síle Larkin (Policing Authority), Yvonne Furey (DoJ), Tony O'Donovan (IYJS), David Sheahan (AGS), Pauline Shields (Garda Inspectorate), Michelle Johnston (Courts Service), and Rowena Toomey (Revenue Commissioners).

Recently retired Council members, Ben Ryan who represented the Department of Justice and Equality and Michelle Shannon, who represented the Irish Youth Justice Service, were also thanked and wished all the best in their new endeavours. Thanks, were also extended to Patrick Clarke who was alternate for Rowena Toomey while during her maternity leave.

Assoc. Professor Liz Heffernan from TCD was welcomed as a new Council Member.

Professor Ian O'Donnell who joins members of the Council on the ACJRD Research Sub-Committee, when required, was also thanked.

### **ACJRD WORKING GROUPS**

The ACJRD currently has the following working groups:

- Addiction
- Education
- Juvenile Justice
- Mental Health
- Reintegration
- Restorative Justice
- White Collar Crime

ACJRD is looking at changing the structure of the Working Groups. Compliance training has taken up a lot of time in the preceding year and consequently the restructuring has not moved forward as much as would have been liked.

A Strategy Implementation meeting was held on 28th February 2019. Gratitude was expressed to Council members Yvonne Daly and Patrick Clarke (alternate for Rowena Twomey), along with staff members, Danelle and Katherine, who attended this meeting with Maura Butler. Suggestions from the meeting were presented to the full Council furthering discussion on the topic, which is ongoing.

#### **UK-Irish Criminal Justice Cooperation Network**

The UK-Ireland Criminal Justice Cooperation Network is an initiative funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, obtained by The University of Northumbria, Newcastle, UK. It is a collaboration between Northumbria University, Queen's University, Belfast and the ACJRD. Together, they aim to bring together policymakers, practitioners and academics from each of their criminal justice environments, to consider the implications of Brexit for criminal justice cooperation between Ireland and the UK. A range of expertise, policy areas and perspectives have been considered to ensure that the Network is as beneficial as possible for all participants.

The Network comprises a core group of approximately forty participants and aims to function through four workshops and a final conference (in Northumbria University). Ireland's Network members were nominated by the ACJRD, many of them from amongst our membership.

The first workshop was held in the Law Society of Ireland, facilitated by ACJRD on 11th January 2019. The second workshop was facilitated by Queen's University Belfast on 10th April 2019. The third workshop is scheduled to take place at the Law Society of Ireland, facilitated again by ACJRD, on 29th November 2019.

The unknown nature of Brexit and the constant postponement of milestone dates have inevitably impacted the Network discussions. The third workshop will aim to be solution-focussed as it considers border-control instruments, processes and practice that are in place between EU and non-EU countries. There are plans to publish the outcomes of these workshops and conference.

#### **ACJRD PARTICIPATION AT EVENTS**

The ACJRD Council members have represented the association at several events during the year to date. These have included:

- In March, Maura Butler attended a One Day Restorative Justice Symposium at Maynooth University
- In April, Maura Butler attended the launch of the 'Women's Aid Impact Report 2018' at the Wood Quay venue
- Maura remotely attended a webcasted conference on 'Policing, Human Rights and Communities' at NUI Galway
- In May, Gerry McNally attended the event 'New Directions for the Irish Legal System After Brexit?' at the Sutherland School of Law, UCD
- In September, Maura Butler attended the seminar and report launch 'Women's Aid Unheard and Uncounted: Women, Domestic Abuse and the Irish Criminal Justice System', at the Wood Quay venue

### **ACJRD SPONSORSHIPS - CRIMINOLOGY PRIZE**

The ACJRD sponsors a small NUIM Criminology Prize for the Best Essay in Criminal Law.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Three categories of ACJRD membership are on offer: student €25.00, individual €35.00 and organisational membership €155.00. Organisational membership is based on a flat rate: this includes all members of that organisation, with up to five members able to attend any one ACJRD event.

Benefits to ACJRD members include: special rates on ACJRD conferences, seminars and other public events, publications on research and conference/seminar proceedings, priority bookings at all ACJRD events, circulation of the newsletter, the option to become involved in the ACJRD working groups and access to a range of peer networks.

### **FINANCES**

The ACJRD Administration funding partnership of the Department of Justice and Equality, The Irish Prison Service and The Probation Service, established in 2013 and expanded to include the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in 2014 continues to support the ACJRD into 2019. A small funding increase was agreed by all partners for 2018 (to cover an increase in staff salaries) and a total of €68,550 funding was received for the year. Thanks, were extended to the funders.

The Chairperson also thanked the Department of Justice, the Courts Service, The Probation Service, the Law Society of Ireland, the Garda Síochána Inspectorate, the Irish Prison Service, the Policing Authority and the Irish Youth Justice Service who have continued to support ACJRD activities by providing venues for seminars and events, and/or regular ACJRD Council meeting venues free of charge.

### **Thanks to the ACJRD Team**

The Chairperson thanked the ACJRD Manager, Danelle Hannan, and Administrator, Katherine Daly, noting that the Association is also greatly indebted to our 2019 volunteers, Maria Cleary and Clíona Mooney.

On behalf of the ACJRD membership, Maura thanked the ACJRD patron, The Hon. Mr Justice Michael Moriarty, for his longstanding support.

### **3. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Jon Byrne, Auditor, Browne, Murphy and Hughes delivered the Treasurer's Report. He discussed the reasons for differences in the accounts between 2017 and 2018.

There was an overall operating surplus of €5,918 in 2018, helped by the increase in funding of just over €4,000 and an increase in membership fees. This surplus has improved ACJRD reserves.

ACJRD is a CLG and is not in business to make a profit. However best practice in financial matters requires that a reserve must be maintained as an organisational development fund or a "Rainy Day Fund" or for the orderly wind-up of the Association, should that become necessary.

ACJRD is solvent and in a good position currently but it is vital that the organisation continues to receive the support of its funders.

Browne, Murphy and Hughes, Auditors, gave a clean audit report on the Financial Statements.

ACJRD's Treasurer, Pauline Shields, thanked Jon Byrne for his work and complimented Danelle Hannan's management of the accounts.

### **4. ADOPTION OF THE 2018 AUDITED ACCOUNTS**

The Audited Accounts were proposed by Yvonne Daly, seconded by Susan Leahy, and adopted.

### **5. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

Dave Sheahan proposed that Browne, Murphy and Hughes be reappointed as Auditors for 2019. This was seconded by Tony O'Donovan. The proposal was carried.

### **6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

#### **Appointment of Council Members:**

**Maura Butler:** Proposed by Pauline Shields and seconded by Gerry McNally

**Shane Kilcommins:** Proposed by Pauline Shields and seconded by Maura Butler

**Pauline Shields:** Proposed by Dave Sheahan and seconded by Kieran O'Dwyer

**Deirdre Manninger:** Proposed by Gerry McNally and seconded by Pauline Shields

- Gerry McNally:** Proposed by Pauline Shields and seconded by Jim Mitchell
- Jim Mitchell:** Proposed by Gerry McNally and seconded by Yvonne Daly
- Yvonne Furey:** Proposed by Tony O'Donovan and seconded by Jim Mitchell
- Tony O'Donovan:** Proposed by Susan Leahy and seconded by Jim Mitchell
- Sile Larkin:** Proposed by Tony O'Donovan and seconded by Deirdre Byrne
- Rowena Toomey:** Proposed by Michelle Johnston and seconded by Deirdre Byrne
- David Sheahan:** Proposed by Kieran O'Dwyer and seconded by Pauline Shields
- Liz Heffernan:** Proposed by Deirdre Byrne and seconded by Michelle Johnston
- Michelle Johnston:** Proposed by Deirdre Byrne and seconded by Gerry McNally

All nominees were appointed.

Maura Butler was proposed for the position of Chairperson by Pauline Shields. This was seconded by Deirdre Manninger and the nomination was carried.

On her retirement from ACJRD's Council, Maura presented Yvonne Daly of DCU with a plaque to thank her for her work on the Council. Yvonne said that she had enjoyed her time on the Council and will stay in contact with the ACJRD. She is delighted to pass the baton on to Liz Heffernan of TCD.

**7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

On behalf of the members of ACJRD, Pauline Shields thanked Maura Butler for all the work, energy, dynamism and ideas which she brings to the table. ACJRD would not have the success it does without her. Pauline also wished Maura all the very best with the new direction she is taking in her work life.

Maura replied that it is a total privilege to work with the ACJRD Council for its members. The level of enthusiasm and energy from the people involved is incomparable.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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