

Covid 19 (Coronavirus) and Parole

Guidance for Victims

The Parole Board for Scotland have made some changes to the way we operate as a result of the current situation. However, our commitment to involving victims in the parole process remains unchanged. This note sets out the impact on victims involvement in the parole process and how to contact us if you have any questions.

Contact with the Parole Board for Scotland

Our staff are now working from home but you can still contact us. The best way to do so is to email us at enquires@paroleboard.scot. If, exceptionally, you are unable to email us please call on 0131 244 8373 and leave a message and a number we can get back to you on. We will do that as soon as possible but please bear with us during this period of uncertainty.

Submitting victims representations

If you are entitled to make representations to the Parole Board as a victim of a crime we would ask you, if at all possible to use email when sending these to the Board. Emails should be sent to enquires@paroleboard.scot If you are unable to send your representations by email we will still continue to receive post although this is likely to lead to delays in receiving and dealing with your representations.

Victim interviews

If you are entitled to a victim interview with a parole board member then this will still be able to go ahead but by telephone. If you want someone else to be present at your interview, such as a support worker or family member, we can make arrangements for others to be involved in the telephone call. Following a victim interview the transcript of the interview will be sent to you by email and you will be asked to respond by email. If there are specific reasons why this is not possible you should let us know and we will make alternative arrangements.

Letting you know about Board decisions

Arrangements for letting you know the outcome when the Board considers a case are unchanged. This includes where you have requested to be informed of the outcome by a telephone call.

Requests to attend Tribunals

Following their recent public consultation on parole the Scottish Government said that they would explore a means by which arrangements can be made to allow a victim and/or family member to attend a parole hearing in person (if they wish to do so). The Board has received and in some cases granted a small number of requests from victims to attend Tribunals. Regrettably the current situation, and the measures we have had to put in place to conduct Tribunals by telephone, means that we will have to decline any such requests over the coming period for reasons of practicality

and manageability. We are also declining requests from others who have requested to attend Tribunals as observers such as Social Workers.

Updating this guidance

We will be adding a Question and answer section to this guidance in the near future.

Parole Board for Scotland
31 March 2020