

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE : Council

DATE : 19 May, 2010

CORPORATE DIRECTOR: Director of Corporate Governance

TITLE OF REPORT: Peterhead Prison Visiting Committee – Appointment of Replacement Member

REPORT NUMBER: CG/10/093

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report intimates the need to appoint a replacement for Mrs. Eileen Grassick, who is one of our appointees on Peterhead Prison Visiting Committee. Mrs. Grassick is standing down from the Committee, and a replacement now needs to be appointed.

Previous experience suggests that Community Councils and the Civic Forum will not yield many expressions of interest here, reflecting perhaps the likelihood that many people would find entering a prison to be a daunting prospect. However, I have received an unsolicited approach from an apparently suitable candidate. Ms. Heather Morgan is an academic at the University of Aberdeen and her CV is attached.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That, unless the Council is otherwise minded, Ms. Heather Morgan be appointed to Peterhead Prison Visiting Committee, joining Councillor Donnelly and Mr. William Stark.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

The value judgements underpinning the existence of Visiting Committees are outlined in Section 6.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

6. REPORT

- (a) Many elected members will be familiar with the role of Prison Visiting Committees which, very broadly, act on behalf of the First Minister as independent observers concentrating on the conditions in prisons and, in particular, the treatment of prisoners.
- (b) Some form of independent oversight of prisons in Scotland has existed for well over a century. The modern context of the Visiting Committee is a sophisticated one which assumes harmony between the Committee and the Governor but, ultimately, provides for the possibility that the Committee might not be satisfied by remedial action taken by the Governor in response to its concerns, and for the referral of difficulties to the First Minister.
- (c) Ideally the Governor welcomes the involvement and participation of the Visiting Committee in the strategic planning process but, ultimately, the Committee has no veto in value judgements reached in the course of that process. However, the absence of ultimate managerial responsibility does not entail lack of real influence.
- (d) Every member of a Visiting Committee has the right to enter the establishment at any time and to have access to every part of it, and to every prisoner. This right must of course be exercised with common sense, and with due regard to the routines of the establishment. A visiting rota is arranged, with a minimum of two members visiting every fortnight.
- (e) The Peterhead Committee is supported by Aberdeenshire's Legal Department. The statutory rules for Peterhead stipulate that we need to appoint only three representatives (whereas for the Aberdeen Committee we are obliged to appoint four). All three Peterhead appointments can be external members but (again, unlike Aberdeen Prison Visiting Committee) external members can be outnumbered by Councillors. At the moment, with the other two appointees being an elected member (Councillor Donnelly) and an external member (Mr. Stark), the new appointee can be of either category.

7. AUTHORISED SIGNATURE

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8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used as a point of departure for writing this report (other than the attached CV submitted by Ms. Morgan).

CURRICULUM VITAE

Heather M. Morgan

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Academic Profile

I completed my Masters degree in Social Research (MRes) at the University of Aberdeen in 2007, having written my dissertation on issues pertaining to the monitoring and management, particularly in respect of gender negotiations, of retail theft at a department store. Now a PhD student in Gender Studies/Sociology there, I am currently developing this gender study in relation to gender, gender deviance, deviance and wider criminological activity, 'the crime industry', from a critical theoretical perspective. Current research is, in the main, theoretical, but involves an empirical case study considering the medium of CCTV, used in a policing context, as a mode of public surveillance, but also as a statement on/example of attitudes towards, occurrences and the extent of gender. Such a gender focus raises and highlights additional complexities in respect of contemporary surveillance and criminalisation, but also of (gendered) society/ies in general.

In 2005, I received my first degree in Law (Minor in French Language) from the University of Aberdeen. During 2005-06, I completed undergraduate courses in Gender Studies and Philosophy at the same institution. I moved to the School of Social Science in September 2006, when I began my postgraduate study.

Research Interests

My academic interests lie in the conceptions and practices of gender(s) and deviance(s). Most notably, these incorporate ideas of gender(s), sex and society, but particularly the means by which these relate to and interact with (approaches to) manifestations of deviance, 'crime', criminological statistics, and the consequent research, literature and gender/jurisprudential thought, both current and chronicled. I am also concerned with actual gender practices as they influence or create everyday life experiences, but in particular criminal 'labelling', 'self-fulfilment' of such labels, gendered idea(l)s and perceptions of criminality, related theories of physiognomy and especially, as a result, how (female shares of) crime statistics have developed and been addressed. In addition, I am fascinated by the 'power' of the (gendered/gendering) individual at various levels of the criminal justice hierarchy and the ways in which these individuals might interpret their (re)actions and influence beliefs and 'knowledge' of certain phenomena (especially in respect of gender practices/relations, awareness and consciousness).

I am keen to explore and pursue methods for researching such ideas: the intersection of gender and deviance; but specifically concern myself with using grounded theory/theory on the ground approaches and err towards observational and participatory methods of research-researcher-researched engagement and data collection in order to gain further understanding of the conceptual and practical dynamics of gender and deviance in addition to a deeper interrogation of collaborative potential in social research methods and the research process.

Qualifications

University of Aberdeen, King's College, Aberdeen, Scotland, UK
September 2001- To Date

- **Doctor of Philosophy (Gender Studies/Sociology) - PhD**
October 2007 - September 2010 (projected)
Thesis Working Title: *Just Gender?*
- **Master of Research (Social Research) - MRes (Commendation)**
October 2006 - September 2007

Dissertation: *Visions and Visibility: Female Criminality, Social Constructionism and the Effects of Appearance on Female Crime Statistics*

- **Degree of Master of Arts in Gender Studies and Philosophy - MA**
September 2005 - June 2006

Undergraduate Certificate: Completion of 1st and 2nd year designated courses to bridge a transfer to the School of Social Sciences and to assist development in preparation for a Research Masters degree in a similar field.

- **Degree of Bachelor of Laws with Options in French Language - LL.B (Hons)**
September 2001 - June 2005

Honours Dissertation: *An examination of the problems that arise as a result of the requirement under the Family Law (Scotland) Act 1985 that matrimonial property be valued at the 'relevant date'.*

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Morgan, H.M., (2009), 'Camera, Action: Criminalisation and Authority in Public Surveillance', *Sortuz: Oñati Journal of Emergent Sociolegal Studies*, 3 (2), pp. 52-77. *By request.*
- Morgan, H.M., (forthcoming, 2009), 'Visions and Visibility: Gender, Crime and Difference', *Debating the Difference Edited Volume*, Scottish Word and Image Group.

Books

- Morgan, H.M., Ruth Morris, Philip Hickok (eds), (in preparation, forthcoming 2011). *Moving Forward: Tradition and Transformation*. London: Anthem Press.
- Morgan, H.M., Jernej Letnar Cernic, Lindsay Milligan (eds), (forthcoming, 2009).

Reviews

- Morgan, H.M., 2009. 'Book Review: Gill, R. (2006). *Gender and the Media* (Oxford: Polity Press)', *Sociology*, 43 (1), pp. 196-7.
- Morgan, H.M., 2009. 'Review Essay: The 'problem' with a name: whose child, whose responsibility?', 43 (6), pp. 1191-1197.
- Morgan, H.M., (forthcoming). 'Book Review: Sanders, T. (2008). *Paying for Pleasure: Men Who Buy Sex* (Devon: Willan Publishing)', *Sociology*.

Conference Papers and Presentations

- 'Police, Governance and Accountability', School of Law, University of Limerick, 3-4 December 2009

I presented a paper entitled: '*Actus (legis) nemini facit injuriam?*'. This addressed the United Kingdom academy's advanced scholarship, and so monopoly, on surveillance practices and policy, or lack thereof, and questioned the 'towards' and development of a common European code of practice.

- Winter Seminar Series, Department of Sociology, University of Aberdeen, 21 October 2009

I presented an extended exploratory paper entitled: 'United in Diversity? `Surveillance, citizens and the (member) state(s),' which is concerned with the intimate links between surveillance theory/ies and practice(s) - in relation to the journey towards a (common) European policy on surveillance.

- Department of Sociology Postgraduate Away Day, Double Trees Hotel by Hilton, Beach Boulevard, Aberdeen, c/o University of Aberdeen, 14 October 2009, chaired by Prof. Gayle Letherby, University of Plymouth

I delivered a 'problem-centred' think-piece entitled: 'Cloudy with a chance of...,' surrounding some experiences of fieldwork/writing up data in 'covert/feminist' research.

- 'Criminology and Crime Policy: Between Human Rights and Effective Crime Control', Conference of the European Society of Criminology, University of Ljubljana, 9-12 September 2009

I presented a paper entitled 'Big Brother: A Girl's Best Friend?', which considered the intersection of feminist criminology with surveillance theory and compared these frameworks with empirically-based practices.

- 'Exploring Feminist Dilemmas: A Problem-Centred Workshop', School of Politics, University of Nottingham, 25 June 2009

I presented a paper entitled 'The Thin Blue Line (?)', a reflection on ethics and good practice in negotiating gender-focused research and (avoiding) the f(eminism)-word. In this paper, I considered and discussed 'creative' research frames and negotiating research

practices(s) where the focus is gender and/or feminism (particularly in relation to policing).

- 'Beyond the Politics of Identity', Department of Film and Visual Culture, University of Aberdeen, 20 June 2009

I presented a paper entitled '*Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?*', which explores the sociological significance of gender stereotyping and 'authentic' representation(s) of gender in the crime industry. In this paper, I focussed specifically on visual identity, stereotyped and typical reactions, and public surveillance. Specifically the immediacy of that surveillance in relation to the visual.

- 'In Search of Authority, Rebellion, and Action', Melbourne Law School, The University of Melbourne, 18-19 December 2008

I presented a recent paper, entitled: 'Camera, Action: Criminalisation and Authority in Public Surveillance,' at Melbourne Law School in December. My paper is based upon the exploration of social research methods in legal scholarship, particularly in relation to public surveillance and (potential) criminalisation. I specifically focus upon the jurisprudential and policy implications of surveillance work. *Delivered via skype live video conferencing.*

- 'Invisibilities: The Politics, Practice and Experience of Surveillance in Everyday Life', Centre for Criminological Research, University of Sheffield, 2-3 April 2008

I presented a more recent analysis of some of the findings of my fieldwork to date in a paper entitled 'Visions and Visibility: Social Constructionism and the Effects of 'Appearance' on Perceptions of Crime and 'Criminals'. (Re)Structuring a 'Social Map?'. This considered the socio-legal philosophical position in respect of stigmatised 'targets' of surveillance and the perpetual pursuit thereof ('prescriptive' policing), with particular reference to 'informal' surveillance and retail theft. The full paper is published on the conference website to which all conference delegates have access.

- 'Debating the Difference: Gender, Representation and Self-Representation', University of Dundee, 5-6 September 2007

I presented an amended version of the earlier paper 'Visions and Visibility: Female Criminality, Social Constructionism and the Effects of Appearance on Female Crime Statistics', specifically tailored to focus upon perceptions and interpretations of female 'criminals', especially in relation to (when qualified with) 'social 'class'".

- College of Arts and Social Sciences Postgraduate Conference 2007: *Moving Forward*, University of Aberdeen, 13-14 June 2007

I presented an outline of my research ideas / area and an overview of a pilot project. The paper was entitled: 'Visions and Visibility: Female Criminality, Social Constructionism and the Effects of Appearance on Female Crime Statistics'.

Teaching Experience

- 2009-10: MA Surveillance Studies, City University, London (Guest Lecturer) Lecture/Seminar synopsis and handout submitted to course co-ordinator, Gavin J.D. Smith, tbc.

School of Medicine, University of Aberdeen:

- 2009-10: HE3017 Social Influences on Health and Illness (Guest Lecturer)

School of Social Science, University of Aberdeen:

- 2009-10: SO2503 Studying Social Life II (Teaching Assistant)
- 2009-10: SO2003 Studying Social Life I (Teaching Assistant)
- 2008-9: SO2503 Studying Social Life II (Teaching Assistant)
- 2008-9: SO2003 Studying Social Life I (Teaching Assistant)
- 2007-8: GD2501 Gendering Violence (Teaching Assistant and Guest Lecturer)
- 2006-7: GD1501 The Social Construction of Gender (Teaching Assistant)

Conference Organisation

- College of Arts and Social Sciences Annual Postgraduate Conference: Moving Forward
www.abdn.ac.uk/cass/movingforward

Providing an international, professional forum for the first-time oral presentation of postgraduate research ideas, methods, findings, etc. Also providing the opportunity for peer-reviewed publication in an annual edited volume since 2008. This conference is an important event on the postgraduate calendar and contributes to ongoing professional training and development.

2009-10: Advisor to Conference Co-Ordinator

2008-09: Conference Co-Ordinator

2007-08: Conference Co-Ordinator

2006-07: Finance Officer

- 'Ending International Feminist Futures?'
Re-viewing Sex, Gender, International Politics

Centre for Gender Studies, University of Aberdeen, 24-25 October 2008. With Dr Marysia Zalewski, Lloyd Dodd and Bronia Flett (all School of Social Science, University of Aberdeen). The final in a series of four conferences held across the United Kingdom to mark twenty years of gender/feminist scholarship.

Committee Membership

- School Advisory Committee, School of Social Science, University of Aberdeen
Contributing the ongoing discussion and review of School and University practices, both academic and other. A committee comprising management, academic and administrative staff, and students at all levels.

2009-10: School Postgraduate Representative

2008-09: School Postgraduate Representative

2007-08: School Postgraduate Representative

2006-07: School Postgraduate Representative

- School Postgraduate Committee, School of Social Science, University of Aberdeen
Contributing the ongoing discussion and review of School and University practices in respect of postgraduate teaching, learning and administration.

2009-10: Sociology Department Postgraduate Representative

2008-09: Sociology Department Postgraduate Representative

2007-08: Sociology Department Postgraduate Representative

2006-07: Sociology Department Postgraduate Representative

Research Assistance

- 'Velvet Triangle: violent consequences?' An investigation into the training and expertise of 'gender experts' in the context of gender mainstreaming. A pilot project by Dr Marysia Zalewski, Centre for Gender Studies, University of Aberdeen.
May - August 2009.
- 'Pro-Government Armed Groups': <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/militias/>. A collaborative project by Professor Neil J. Mitchell, University of Aberdeen and Professor Sabine C. Carey, University of Nottingham, part of a wider project funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). May - July 2009.

Research Grants

- Principal's Small Grants Fund, University of Aberdeen, July 2009. Awarded funds to visit the Center for Gender Studies, University of Chicago, to present a seminar, and to visit the Chicago Police Department in order to carry out research fieldwork.

Professional Development

- 'Professional Development for Tutors', Dr Darren Comber, University of Aberdeen, 2 October 2009.
- ASPIRE (Roberts Fund) one day course in Active Listening and Team Working, University of Aberdeen, 8 May 2009.

Outreach

- 2010-11: Scottish Police College/Scottish Institute for Policing Research, Tulliallan Castle, Fife - 22 February 2011

I will run a one day course entitled 'Agenda: 'Gender' CCTV: gender bias and surveillance' for the Scottish Police College's programme in continuing professional development.

Course summary: Gender, in a contemporary context, is the term cited among working groups and policy makers in relation to mainstreaming: that is fully addressing sex discrimination and inequality, now a necessity for all institutions and organisations. The acknowledgement and management of social, political and economic sex(ual) difference, or what could (or should) be indifference, has recently become a priority. What is often taken to be the basis of gender, therefore, is sex. Whilst this is arguably a fundamental determinant of gender, academic (feminist) theory tends to conceive of gender as something beyond, extricable from, sex. Studying gender from such a perspective appears, however, incongruent with both public policies and practices. This course will firstly provide a basic introduction to gender theory for practitioners within the Scottish Police Service in order that they can engage with gender, critically, from a theoretical perspective, considering how this 'gender' may, or may not, be useful and/or relevant to police policies and practices. Secondly, the means by which the notion of gender will be illustrated and evaluated is through illustrative examples of CCTV (closed circuit television) use. Finally, the wider application of gender awareness across police work will be considered.

- 2009-10: Kemnay Academy, Kemnay, Aberdeenshire - 2 November 2009 - Secondary 5/6

Along with Dr Marysia Zalewski, Director of the Centre for Gender Studies, University of Aberdeen, and Andrew Muir, MRes (Social Research) Student, University of Aberdeen, I facilitated a workshop on gender issues, run as part of a 'day on diversity'.

- 2008-09: Westhill Academy, Westhill, Aberdeenshire - 27 November 2008 - Secondary 6 Advanced Higher Modern Studies class meeting. *By invitation.*

I delivered a presentation and provided a written paper, entitled 'Visions and Visibility: Constructing (Female) Criminality: An Overview', to the students. This was followed by a discussion/debate about what constitutes criminality and how women (are seen to) relate to our ideas and perceptions. Use of current affairs examples to provide context assisted in this discussion, in particular recent cases relating to (contemporary) motherhood.

- 2007-08: Mackie Academy, Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire - 27 November 2007 - Secondary 6 Advanced Higher Modern Studies class meeting.

I presented to this class on conducting small-scale social research and writing a dissertation. I also assisted one student in the preparation and editing of her final dissertation for the AH Modern Studies course. The dissertation was entitled 'Women are harshly sentenced to prison despite it not being in the best interests of them or society'. Her dissertation won the School's annual prize for 'Best S6 Dissertation' (any subject).

Additional Academic Activities - Teaching and Learning Review

- **Curriculum Reform**
School of Social Science, University of Aberdeen

20-22 May 2009

Role: Teaching assistant participation.

A three-day conference involving external contributions and observations on teaching and learning and internal plenary considerations and potential change.

Remit: All teaching staff.

I participated in sessions (presentation by external contributor, questions, 'break out' and group discussion, plenary re-grouping to discuss outcomes) on: the 'friction points' between teaching and research textbooks, visual aids, specialist research vs. Introductory teaching, dissertation research topics, employability and research-led teaching: a student/customer perspective, distance learning, teaching assistants vs. staff, post-joint Honours.

- **SPARQS* Consultation**

School of Social Science, College of Arts and Social Sciences, and University of Aberdeen
2008-09

Role: Teaching Assistant Representative, School of Social Science.

A SPARQS-led (<http://www.sparqs.ac.uk/>) 'Student Participation in Quality Scotland' - involvement of students in Higher Education - initiative.

Remit: Teaching and administrative staff-constituted committees.

Initiative to re-evaluate the student feedback process on delivery of teaching at Higher Education institutions in Scotland. I attended at three University/College/School sessions:

1: Student Course Evaluation Form (University wide) - a redesign of the standard University Registry form (now in pilot) to incorporate three 'qualitative' questions/responses, replacing the standard/traditional 'tick box' model (School level).

2: Cross College meeting, with representatives from the College of Medicine and Life Sciences and

The College of Physical Sciences, to discuss their best practices in seeking and responding to

student involvement in learning/teaching and their uses of the SPARQS* consultation 'internally', which varied across Colleges/Schools (University level).

3. A final meeting to discuss general feedback and seeking/gaining informal feedback on teaching delivery and learning expectations and processes and how to involve undergraduate students at that level (School level).

- **Internal Teaching Review**

School of Social Science, University of Aberdeen
2008-09

Role: Administrative and consultative duties.

An evaluation of School course organisation and delivery, and also student feedback, on School

Courses; course review.

Remit: School: all staff (teaching and research); teaching assistants (honorary and postgraduate); students (undergraduate and postgraduate).

I prepared reports on previous years' (2003-2008) course evaluation returns and standardisation of School courses (systematic changes) and also sat in on panels as a consultant to the review

Committee, representing teaching assistance and student involvement in School committee activities.

Additional Support Work - Learning Experience

- **Higher Education**

Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Library Service

September 2007 - to date: Customer Support Supervisor (part time/term time)

A role which involves dealing with enquiries from undergraduate, postgraduate and staff in relation to accessing and using materials in hard copy and as electronic resources, assisting with IT use and faults, referencing, Inter-Library Loans, SCONUL access to institutional Lib

- **Other**

Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Library Service

As above; this role also involves supporting NHS staff and Robert Gordon College secondary school pupils, as well as graduates and professional/private external users who are members of the Library.

Professional Memberships

- Affiliated with the Scottish Institute for Policing Research: <http://www.sipr.ac.uk/people/people-detail.php?ID=121>
- Associate Researcher with The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research: <http://www.sccjr.ac.uk/associates/Ms-Heather-M-Morgan/285>
- Member of the European Society of Criminology: <http://www.esc-eurocrim.org/>
- Member of the Surveillance Studies Network: <http://www.surveillance-studies.net/>

Hobbies and Interests

I enjoy reading a variety of literature, listening to music, both classical and contemporary. Whilst at school, I was a keen Violinist and member of the School Orchestra, String Ensemble and Samba Band. I also played and performed as part of the South Aberdeenshire Youth Orchestra. Throughout my instruction, I gained the following qualifications:

Associated Board examinations in Violin playing: Grade 4: Distinction 1999, Grade 5: Merit 2001; *Associated Board examination in Music Theory:* Grade 5: Pass 2000. Latterly, I have not played as frequently as I would like, or should; though I plan to reacquaint myself through pursuing Grade 6 Practical Violin in the near future.

I like traditional and experimental cooking and spending time driving to places new or known. I have a penchant for castles and stately homes and am a keen member of the National Trust. I also speak, write and read French almost fluently and like to (obsessively) follow politics and current affairs.

Referees

Dr Marysia Zalewski - Supervisor

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