



Aberdeen Branch
2025 - 2026 PROGRAMME
Chair: Sheriff Morag McLaughlin
Secretary: vacant

Charity No: SC008124

www.sastudyoffending.org.uk

The aim of SASO is to bring together people with a wide range of experience in the justice system so that by listening, talking, and sharing experience, a better understanding of our common problems will develop.

THURSDAY 25 September 2025

5.45PM – Aberdeen Sheriff Court

Working title: The role of Community Justice Scotland

Karyn McCluskey, Chief Executive, Community Justice Scotland

THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER 2025

5.45PM – Aberdeen Sheriff Court

Assistance by Offenders: the legislation, process and the role of the Specified Prosecutor

Laura Buchan, Deputy Crown Agent, Specialist Casework, COPFS

THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2025

5.45PM – Aberdeen Sheriff Court

Drug Driving: Effects, Analysis and Prosecution

Jane Officer, Lead Forensic Toxicologist, Scottish Police Authority

THURSDAY 29 JANUARY 2026

5.30 PM – Aberdeen Sheriff Court

The Role of the Children and Young People's Commissioner in incorporation of the UN Convention on Rights of a Child (UNCRC) and the powers introduced by the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024

Nick Hobbs – Head of Legal, Office of the Children and Young People's Commissioner

THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2026

5.30 PM – Aberdeen Sheriff Court

Working title: Risk Assessment of High Risk Offenders and Orders for Lifelong Restriction
Dr Stuart Doig, State Hospital

THURSDAY 26 MARCH 2026

5.30 PM – Aberdeen Sheriff Court

Working title: DNA Analysis in Forensic Science: History, Current Practice, Reporting and Advancements – an update

Andrew Gibb, forensic scientist SPA

THURSDAY 30 APRIL 2026

5.30 PM – Aberdeen Sheriff Court

Working Title: Prisons, prison overcrowding and rehabilitation of prisoners

Alex Doig / Graham Ackerman, Deputy Director, Scottish Government Justice Directorate

Members and non-members alike are welcome. Solicitors & Advocates, Police and Social Workers and other professions may claim CPD time for attendance at SASO lectures - registration at the event will be required.

Any enquiries regarding the presentations or SASO in Aberdeen should be made to: Sheriff McLaughlin E-mail: sasoaberdeen@gmail.com
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