

6 RESEARCH VISIT BY CHINESE LEGISLATIVE STAFF (AN383-2005)

In December 2004, two delegates from the UK, including the Manager of Dundee City Council Criminal Justice Services, addressed a conference in Shanghai on alternatives to custody for minor offences. This was arranged through the British Council as part of the reform of re-education through labour which is jointly run by the British Council and the Legislative Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress of China.

Following on from the conference it has been agreed three Chinese Legislative staff will visit the UK for a two month research visit. The intention is that this will take place from mid October. The purpose of their visit is to study how the UK system deals with minor offenders and the procedure adopted to safeguard individual's rights. The expectation is that the staff will return with information which could be useful to the reform of Chinese legislation.

It is intended that the staff will spend time in England and Scotland and will undertake both academic research and operational attachments. The plan is that they will spend two weeks at Stirling University and two weeks with Dundee City Council.

Dundee City Council will co-ordinate a programme involving other services and other local authorities as appropriate.

Members of the Social Work Committee are asked to note the research visit which will hopefully influence the ongoing reforms to the legislation within China.