

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (JAC) MEETING

25 April 2024

Minutes of Board Meeting

Present	
Commissioners	Staff
Helen Pitcher (Chairman)	Chief Executive
Mark Warby (Vice Chair)	Deputy Chief Executive/ Head of Strategy and Policy
Noel Arnold	Head of Operations and Digital
Christopher Bones	Head of Operational Delivery
Anuja Dhir	Head of Selection Policy
Anthony Harnden	Head of Secretariat/Board Secretary
Sue Hoyle	Head of Targeted Outreach and Research
Uchechi Igbokwe	Senior Project Delivery Manager, Targeted Outreach Team
Tanweer Ikram	
Adam Johnson	Selection Exercise Manager, Selection Exercise Team
Sarah Lee	
Clare McGlynn	
Barry Morgan	
Greg Sinfeld	
Brie Stevens-Hoare	

1. Apologies and matters arising

1.1. The minutes of the 07 March 2024 meeting were agreed.

2. Chief Executive's Report and Management Information Pack

2.1. The Chief Executive provided an update on:

- the 2023/24 budget allocation
- the 2023-24 judicial recruitment programme
- outreach activity
- diversity statistics
- complaints and a legally privileged update on ongoing litigation
- current staffing levels.

3. Report back from Working Groups

3.1. The Chairman asked Commissioners to report back on recent meetings of committees and working groups.

Advisory Group

3.2. Sue Hoyle reported back from the Advisory Group meeting which was held on 23 April 2024. The Advisory Group:

- reviewed situational questions, and strategic leadership questions for a variety of exercises
- bid farewell to two members and welcomed one new member to the Group.

Welsh Matters Committee

3.3. Barry Morgan reported back from the Welsh Matters Committee meeting which was held on 7 March 2024. The Committee:

- welcomed Noel Arnold as a new member
- considered exercises with Welsh posts
- noted the Welsh White Paper had now been published
- considered a paper on Merit and the Equal Merit provision and the inclusion of Welsh Language or the Welsh Administration Questions.

Digital Board

3.4. Greg Sinfield reported back from the Digital Board which took place on 21 March 2024. The Digital Board:

- were informed that the Digital Team, including contractors, would be meeting in April to reflect on the 23-24 roadmap and look ahead to the 24-25 roadmap
- were notified that the contract with TPXImpact has now expired and discussed requirements for the next tender process
- were updated on the RAID log, noting work undertaken and/or ongoing to mitigate against key digital risks and issues
- noted recent progress against the roadmap
- were provided with an overview of the 2024/25 Digital Roadmap
- observed a brief demonstration of the admin platform.

4. Chairman's Report

4.1. The Chairman reported back on the following:

- The Chairman met with Lady Justice Whipple, the new judicial diversity lead on 11 March
- The Chairman met with Lady Justice King on 11 March
- The Chairman met with Sam Townend KC, Chair of the Bar Council on 12 March
- The Chairman attended the Reception with Society of Legal Scholars on 13 March
- The Chairman interviewed for the Court of Appeal exercise on 25 and 26 March
- The Chairman met with the Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland during their visit on 4 April
- The Chairman gave evidence to the Senior Salaries Review Body on 16 April.

Commissioner updates

4.2. Commissioners provided the following updates on their activities:

- Anthony Harnden attended an outreach seminar for 199 Fee-paid Specialist Member of the First-tier Tribunal, Health, Education and Social Care Chamber (Mental Health) on 8 April.
- Brie Stevens-Hoare attended an online Property Chamber careers outreach event on 9 April.
- Noel Arnold presented at the JAC staff meeting on 24 April 2024.

5. 3 Year Strategy and Business Planning

5.1. The Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Strategy and Policy presented the draft JAC 2024-27 Business Strategy.

5.2. The Board discussed the strategy and approved the draft for publication.

6. Board Effectiveness Report 2023: Key Issues and Actions

6.1. The Commissioners discussed key issues and actions following from the Board Effectiveness Review of 2023

6.2. The Board were content with the proposed plan of action.

7. Statutory Consultation – Decision on Exercises

- 7.1. The Head of Selection Policy presented the process for the remainder of exercises launching in quarter 1 2024/25 and exercises launching in quarter 3 of the 2024/25 following the review of Statutory Consultation.
- 7.2. The Board noted and accepted the proposals.

8. Annual Review of Indicators of Exercise Length

- 8.1. The Head of Operations and Digital outlined the performance of selection exercises that have reported in the last financial year in relation to the indicators on exercise length.
- 8.2. The Board noted the performance of the selection exercises.
- 8.3. The Board were content with the current indicator lengths proposed and agreed the addition of a further indicator for very large exercises.

9. 203 Fee Paid Judge of the First Tier Tribunal Process Paper

- 9.1. The Selection Exercise Manager outlined the planned selection process.
- 9.2. The Board were content with the proposal.

10. JAC Lay Panel Member Role as Public Duty

- 10.1. The Senior Project Delivery Manager presented the information paper.
- 10.2. The Board were content with the update.

11. Forward Look and AOB

- 11.1. The Board noted the 2024 Forward Look and the Chairman confirmed the next Board meeting would be held on 6 June 2024.

This concluded the business of the Board.