

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (JAC) MEETING

8 July 2021

Minutes of Board Meeting

Present	
Commissioners	Staff
Ajay Kakkar (Chairman)	Chief Executive
Sue Carr (Vice Chairman)	Deputy Chief Executive
Mathangi Asokan	Head of Operational Delivery
Christa Christensen	Head of Selection Policy
Anuja Dhir	Head of Diversity and Engagement
Sarah Falk	Head of Secretariat/Board Secretary
Emir Feisal	Head of Senior Appointments
Jane Furniss	Senior Policy Advisor
Sue Hoyle	Senior Selection Exercise Manager
Andrew Kennon	Selection Exercise Manager
Sarah Lee	
Barry Morgan	
Greg Sinfield	
Brie Stevens-Hoare	
Simon Wessely	
Apologies: None	

1. Apologies and matters arising

- 1.1 The minutes of the 10 June 2021 meeting were agreed.
- 1.2 No interests were declared by any Commissioner in respect of any matter under discussion on the agenda.

2. Chief Executive's Report and Management Information Pack

2.1 The Chief Executive:

- provided an update on the review of the approach to Statutory Consultation within the current statutory framework;
- provided an update on the upcoming publication of the Combined Statistical Report;
- reported on the agreed two-year programme with HMCTS and the work conducted to date;

- provided an update on the JAC's financial position;
- provided an update on the JAC's response to staff working patterns in response to the easing of COVID-19 restrictions;
- provided an update on the Equal Merit Provision review; and
- provided an update on the Commission's response to the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) consultation on the Police National Computer Retention and Disposal Review.

3. Report back from Committees and Working Groups

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

Digital Board

3.2 Andrew Kennon (AK) provided an update to the Board on the Digital Board (DB) meeting which took place on 24 June.

3.3 Commissioner Greg Sinfield has joined the DB.

3.4 The DB was updated on progress made against the Digital Strategy and on the progress of the Road Map with focus on the next 3 months.

3.5 The DB was updated on progress to make the application process as candidate friendly as possible.

3.6 The DB was also updated on the JAC's quick response to a website outage on 8 June which also affected many other organisations.

3.7 The DB reviewed the results of a recent online qualifying test and scenario test, drawing out the lessons learned.

3.8 The DB also received an update on the Risks, Assumptions, Issues and Dependencies (RAID) log.

Welsh Matters Committee

3.9 Barry Morgan (BM) provided an update to the Board on the Welsh Matters Committee (WMC) meeting which took place on the morning of 8 July.

3.10 The WMC considered a draft of the Welsh Language Monitoring Scheme 2020-21 report.

3.11 The WMC also agreed a new grading structure for the assessment of candidates' understanding of the administration of justice in Wales.

3.12 The WMC received an update regarding plans to establish a Commission on the constitution within Wales.

4. Chairman's Report

4.1 The Chairman briefed the Board on his meeting on 10 June with the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice.

4.2 The Chairman briefed the Board on the recent meeting of the Judicial Diversity Forum which he had chaired, and the Justice Select Committee evidence session he attended alongside Sarah Lee and Richard Jarvis.

4.3 Mathu Asokan reported that she had taken part in two outreach events for Deputy District Judge (DDJ), one hosted by Resolution and another in conjunction with the Association of Lawyers for Children. Sue Hoyle reported that she had taken part in a Judicial Office webinar event for Deputy District Judge.

5. Evaluation of the pre-recorded roleplay in the First-tier Tribunal and Employment Tribunal exercises

5.1 The Senior Policy Advisor presented the evaluation of the pre-recorded roleplay in the First-tier Tribunal and Employment Tribunal exercises.

5.2 Following a discussion, the Commission noted the findings of the evaluation and agreed to the recommendations for next steps set out in the paper.

6. Selection Process for Fee-paid Judge of the First-tier Tribunal and Fee-paid Judge of the Employment Tribunals (England and Wales)

6.1 The Senior Selection Exercise Manager presented the selection process for the forthcoming Fee-paid Judge of the First-tier Tribunal and Fee-paid Judge of the Employment Tribunals.

6.2 Following discussion, the Commission endorsed the proposed selection process for this exercise.

7. Selection Process for Road User Charging Adjudicators (RUCA)

7.1 The Selection Exercise Manager presented the selection process for the next Road User Charging Adjudicators (RUCA) exercise.

7.2 Following discussion, the Commission endorsed the proposed selection process for this exercise.

8. Selection Process for High Court 2021-22

- 8.1 The Head of Senior Appointments updated the Board on planning for the next High Court exercise.
- 8.2 The Commission noted the planned approach. There was discussion of the indication that the JAC would be asked to recommend to division-specific vacancies, and the need for the JAC to advise fully on the potential implications of this approach. Once the vacancy request was confirmed, a paper outlining the proposed selection process would be circulated out of committee.

9. Forward Look and AOB

- 9.1 The Board noted the 2021 Forward Look and the Chairman confirmed the next Board meeting would be held on 9 September 2021.
- 9.2 This concluded the business of the Board.