

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (JAC) MEETING

15 June 2023

Minutes of Board Meeting

Present	
Commissioners	Staff
Helen Pitcher (Chair)	Chief Executive
Adam Johnson (interim Vice Chair)	Deputy Chief Executive
Christa Christensen	Head of Operations and Digital
Jane Furniss	Head of Operational Delivery
Brie Stevens-Hoare	Head of Diversity and Engagement
Sue Hoyle	Head of Selection Policy
Andrew Kennon	Head of Panel Member Engagement
Sarah Lee	Head of Secretariat/Board Secretary
Barry Morgan	Selection Exercise Manager
Greg Sinfield	Senior Selection Exercise Manager
	Senior Strategic Communications Manager
Apologies	
Mathangi Asokan	
Anuja Dhir	
Emir Feisal	
Simon Wessely	

1. Apologies and matters arising

- 1.1. The minutes of the 11 May 2023 meeting were agreed.
- 1.2. Apologies were received from Mathangi Asokan, Anuja Dhir, Emir Feisal and Simon Wessely

2. Chief Executive's Report and Management Information Pack

2.1. The Chief Executive:

- provided an update on the 2023/24 budget allocation;
- provided an update on the 2023-24 Judicial recruitment programme;
- provided an update on changes in the executive team including the appointment of Alex McMurtrie as Chief Executive Officer of the JAC;
- provided a legally privileged update on ongoing litigation; and
- provided an update on Commissioner recruitment.

3. Report back from Committees and Working Groups

3.1. The Chair 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 (AG) meeting which was held on 23 May.

3.3. The Advisory Group reviewed:

- Situational questions for:
 - 122 Fee-paid Specialist Building Safety Experts for the First-tier Tribunal, Property Chamber
 - 132 Salaried Judge of the Employment Tribunal (England and Wales)
- Questions for the bank of situational questions for:
 - Chamber President of the First-tier Tribunal

3.4. The Advisory Group also noted the departure of Ralph Wilde who has stepped down from his role and thanked him for his contribution to the work of the Advisory Group.

Digital Board

3.5. Andrew Kennon reported back from the Digital Board meeting which was held on 1 June 2023

3.6. The Board reviewed some of the key initiatives delivered over the last year and noted the recent progress against the roadmap.

3.7. The Digital Board also agreed a revised Terms of Reference and noted its thanks to Richard Jarvis for his leadership on digital over the last number of years.

4. Chair's Report

4.1. The Chair reported back on the following:

- Her meeting with the Chair of the Diversity Committee of the Judges' Council, Lady Justice Simler on 6 June;
- Her meeting with the Chair of the Judicial College, Lady Justice King on 6 June
- Her meeting with Work Psychology Group
- Her participation in the JEB away day and also her participation on a panel for a JUSTICE event.
- Her interview for Law in Action on BBC Radio 4.

4.2. The Board noted that Sue Hoyle and Mathu Asokan attended outreach events for the Upper Tribunal (Immigration Asylum Chamber) exercise.

4.3. Adam Johnson and Jane Furniss met with the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Korea.

4.4. Brie Stevens-Hoare met with HMCTS to inform legal advisors about the JAC and future careers in the judiciary.

4.5. Barry Morgan had an introductory meeting with the President of Welsh Tribunals.

4.6. Jane Furniss attended an outreach event for Recorder on the Midlands Circuit.

5. Circuit Judge 2023 Selection Exercise Process

5.1. The Selection Exercise Manager presented the proposed selection process for the forthcoming Circuit Judge exercise due to launch in July.

5.2. Following discussion, the Commission agreed to the process set out in the paper.

6. Review of Statutory Consultation for exercises in Quarters 2 and 3

6.1. The Head of Selection Policy presented the paper on the review of statutory consultation and the proposals for exercises to retain or request to dispense with statutory consultation.

6.2. Following discussion, the Commission agreed to the recommendations set out in the paper.

7. Panel Member Engagement

7.1. The Head of Panel Member Engagement provided an update to the Board on the new Head of Panel Member Engagement role and an overview of a proposed feedback pilot.

7.2. The Commission noted the contents of the paper.

8. Annual Report 2022-23

8.1. The Senior Strategic Communications Manager presented a paper on the status of the JAC Annual Report and Accounts 2022–23 and the steps towards its laying before Parliament.

8.2. The Commission noted the Annual Report and endorsed it.

9. Forward Look and AOB

9.1. The Board noted the 2023 Forward Look and the Chair confirmed the next Board meeting would be held on 13 July 2023

9.2. The Chairman noted the departure of the Chief Executive Richard Jarvis and thanked him for his exceptional contribution to the JAC over the last six years

9.3. The Chair also noted her thanks to Commissioner Christa Christensen and thanked her for service as a Commissioner over the last three years.

9.4. This concluded the business of the Board.