

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (JAC) MEETING

14 July 2022

Minutes of Board Meeting

Present	
Commissioners	Staff
Ajay Kakkar (Chairman) Sue Carr (Vice Chairman) Anuja Dhir Jane Furniss Sue Hoyle Andrew Kennon Mathangi Asokan Sarah Lee Greg Sinfield Barry Morgan Brie Stevens-Hoare	Chief Executive (attending remotely) Head of Operations and Digital Head of Operational Delivery Head of Analysis and Insight Head of Diversity and Engagement Head of Senior Appointments Acting Head of Secretariat/Board Secretary Selection Policy Adviser Senior Selection Exercise Manager Selection Exercise Manager
Apologies Emir Feisal Christa Christensen	

1. Apologies and matters arising

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Emir Feisal and Christa Christensen.
- 1.2 The minutes of the 16 June 2022 meeting were agreed.

2. Chief Executive's Report and Management Information Pack

2.1 The Chief Executive:

- provided an update on Chair and Commissioner recruitment;
- provided an update on ongoing litigation;
- provided an update on the publication on the annual Combined Statistical Report;
- provided an update on the business plan and the 2021-22 and 2022-23 selection exercise programmes; and
- provided an update on the JAC's financial position and allocation for 2022-23.

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.

Audit and Risk Committee

3.2 Jane Furniss reported back from the Audit and Risk Committee, which had been held on 30 June.

3.3 The Committee had reviewed the latest version of the Annual Report and Accounts and noted the timetable for laying the Annual Report in Parliament on 15 July.

3.4 Representatives of the National Audit Office and Deloitte had attended the meeting to present their audit completion report. The report confirmed that the total value of each of audit adjustments and unadjusted misstatements was £0 and that there were no formal recommendations to be made.

3.5 The Board noted that the JAC had received only one external audit recommendation in the past 4 years and that both this and the lack of adjustments were notable achievements. The Board thanked the Chief Executive and the Finance and Corporate Services team, as well as Jane and the Audit and Risk Committee for all their work on this.

Digital Board

3.6 Andrew Kennon reported back from the Digital Board following their meeting on 30 June.

3.7 The Board had considered and endorsed the proposal for an independent member on the Digital Board.

3.8 The Board had noted recent progress against the Digital Roadmap, including:

- Merit Lists on the Digital Platform
- Security updates
- Practice Qualifying Test
- Qualifying Test separation to enable a regular release of code
- Improvements to character features
- Creation of a new Digital SharePoint site

Welsh Matters Committee

- 3.9 Barry Morgan reported back from the Welsh Matters Committee, which had taken place just before the Board meeting on 14 July.
- 3.10 The Committee had considered exercises with Welsh posts currently in progress and heard an update on progress from the action register.
- 3.11 The Committee had noted the publication of the Welsh Government's 'Delivering Justice for Wales' report.
- 3.12 The Committee had noted the draft of the 2021-22 Welsh Language Scheme Monitoring Report.
- 3.13 The Committee had discussed an ongoing consideration of use of Welsh language application forms.

4. Chairman's Report

- 4.1 The Chairman briefed the Board on the Judicial Diversity Forum meeting he chaired on 22 June.
- 4.2 The Chairman reported back on the Court of Appeal exercise for which he sits on the panel.
- 4.3 The Chairman reported that he was due to meet with the Lord Chief Justice on 20 July.
- 4.4 Brie Stevens-Hoare had spoken at an event for the Association of Women's Solicitors on 21 June and represented the JAC at the Chancery Bar Association's Chair's Summer Reception on 23 June.
- 4.5 Sue Carr had spoken at an Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Forum at Lincoln's Inn on 5 July.
- 4.6 Greg Sinfield had met with the Senior President of Tribunals alongside the Chief Executive on 7 July and attended an Employment Appeals Tribunal event encouraging a wider range of judicial applicants on 12 July.

5. Review of Statutory Consultation – review of exercises launching from September and Quarter 3 of the Forward Programme

- 5.1 The Senior Policy Adviser presented a paper on the review of statutory consultation and the proposals for exercises launching from September to December 2022 to retain or dispense with statutory consultation.

- 5.2 The Board noted that it would receive a similar paper setting out proposals for each quarter in the future.
- 5.3 Taking into account the size and nature of each exercise, the likelihood that statutory consultees would have relevant information on the suitability of candidates for the role and for a significant proportion of the candidate pool and the timing of when any statutory consultation could be sought, the Board agreed with the recommendations in the paper regarding the exercises in respect of which statutory consultation would be sought to be waived.

6. Update on Qualifying Test analysis

- 6.1 The Head of Analysis and Insights presented a paper on the JAC's Qualifying Test (QT) analysis.
- 6.2 The analysis covered 10 qualifying tests for legal exercises since 2019 and had been undertaken to better understand the progression rates and performance of target groups on the legal QT.
- 6.3 The Board noted the update and agreed the next steps around handling and presentation.

7. High Court 2022/23 Selection Process

- 7.1 The Head of Senior Appointments presented the planned selection process for the forthcoming High Court exercise due to launch in October 2022.
- 7.2 Following discussion, the Board endorsed the proposed process for this exercise.
- 7.3 The Board also approved the recommendations set out in the separate paper on resourcing senior appointments exercises in 2022-23.

8 District Judge Selection Process

- 8.1 The Selection Exercise Manager presented the planned selection process for the forthcoming District Judge exercise due to launch in September 2022.
- 8.2 Following discussion, the Board endorsed the proposed process for this exercise.

9 Deputy District Judge Selection Process

- 9.1 The Senior Selection Exercise Manager presented the planned selection process for the forthcoming Deputy District Judge exercise due to launch in September 2022.
- 9.2 Following discussion, the Board endorsed the proposed process for this exercise.

10 Forward Look and AOB

10.1 The Board noted the 2022 Forward Look and the Chairman confirmed that the next Board meeting would be held on 8 September 2022 at Clive House.