

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (JAC) MEETING

16 November 2023

Minutes of Board Meeting

Present	
Commissioners	Staff
Helen Pitcher (Chairman) Mark Warby (Vice Chair) Anuja Dhir Emir Feisal Jane Furniss Sue Hoyle Adam Johnson Andrew Kennon Sarah Lee Barry Morgan Greg Sinfield Brie Stevens-Hoare Simon Wessely	Chief Executive Deputy Chief Executive – Head of Strategy and Policy Head of Operations and Digital Head of Selection Policy Head of Secretariat/Board Secretary

1. Apologies and matters arising

1.1. The minutes of the 12 October 2023 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;
- provided an update on the 2023-24 Judicial recruitment programme; and
- provided a legally privileged update on ongoing litigation.

3. Report back from Working Groups

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

Welsh Matters Committee

3.2. Barry Morgan reported back from the Welsh Matters Committee which was held on 12 October.

3.3. The Committee considered exercises with Welsh posts and heard an update on progress from the action register.

- 3.4. The Committee noted a response from the JAC has now issued to the Counsel General regarding the Welsh Government White Paper proposals for a new 'Tribunal system for Wales'.

Advisory Group

- 3.5. Sue Hoyle reported back on the Advisory Group meeting which was held on 17 October.

- 3.6. The Advisory Group welcomed two new members to the group.

- 3.7. The Chairman of the JAC also observed this meeting.

- 3.8. The Advisory Group reviewed:

- The situational questions for:
 - Fee-Paid Judge of the Upper Tribunal, Immigration and Asylum Chamber
 - Fee-Paid Professional Member of the First-tier Tribunal, Health and Social Care Chamber (Primary Health Lists)
 - Fee-paid Farmer & Landowner Members, First-tier Tribunal, Agricultural Land and Drainage (Property Chamber) and Agricultural Land Tribunal (Wales)
 - Specialist Traffic Fee-paid Member of the Upper Tribunal, Administrative Appeals Chamber
 - Regional Surveyor of the First-tier Tribunal (Property Chamber)

- 3.9. The strategic leadership questions for:

- Senior Circuit Judge, Designated Family Judge

Audit and Risk Committee

- 3.10. Sarah Lee reported back on the Audit and Risk Committee meeting which was held on 26 October.

- 3.11. The Committee reviewed the updates to the corporate risk register.

- 3.12. The Committee conducted a deep-dive discussion on 'Staff Engagement' risk, and noted ongoing work in this area to manage the risk.

- 3.13. The Committee reviewed the Q2 accounts and noted the current financial position.

- 3.14. The Committee noted the Government Internal Audit Agency audit on the Welsh Matters Committee is now complete and received a moderate assurance rating.

- 3.15. The Committee noted GIAA have also issued a Management Letter on Assurance Mapping within the JAC

- 3.16. The Committee received an update from the National Audit Office and Deloitte for the upcoming external audit.

4. Chairman's Report

4.1. The Chairman reported back on the following:

- The Chairman observed the Advisory Group on 17th October.
- The Chairman provided an update on her quarterly meeting with Lady Justice King, Head of Judicial College on 31st October.
- The Chairman also met with His Honour Judge Lucraft KC at the Old Bailey Court on 1st November.

Commissioner updates

- Mark Warby reported back on his attendance at the Association of District Judges Dinner on 16 October.
- Andrew Kennon reported back on his attendance at the H M Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate outreach event on 15 November.
- Anuja Dhir reported back on her participation at the Women in Law: Next 100 Years event on 8 November.

5. Board Effectiveness Review – Approach and Questions

5.1. The Head of Secretariat presented the Board Evaluation process for 2023-24.

5.2. The Board noted the process and agreed to its implementation.

6. Statutory Consultation – decisions for exercises in Quarter 4 2023/24 and Quarter 1 of 2024/25 of the Forward Programme.

6.1. The Head of Selection Policy presented the process for the remainder of exercises launching in Quarter 4 2023/24 and exercises launching in quarter 1 of the 2024/25 following the review of Statutory Consultation.

6.2. The Board noted and accepted the proposals.

7. Business Strategy 2024- 27

7.1. The Deputy Chief Executive provided an update on the development of the 2024-27 Business Strategy.

8. Forward Look and AOB

8.1. The Board noted the 2023 Forward Look and the Chairman confirmed the next Board meeting would be held on 14 December 2023.

This concluded the business of the Board.