

## JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (JAC) MEETING

8 September 2022

### Minutes of Board Meeting

<b>Present</b>	
<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Ajay Kakkar (Chairman, chaired items 1 & 4 ) Sue Carr (Vice Chairman, chaired items 2-3 & 5-8) Anuja Dhir Sue Hoyle Andrew Kennon Sarah Lee Barry Morgan Brie Stevens-Hoare Christa Christensen	Chief Executive Deputy Chief Executive Head of Operations and Digital Head of Operational Delivery Head of Analysis and Insight Head of Diversity and Engagement Head of Senior Appointments Head of Selection Policy Head of Targeted Outreach and Research Acting Head of Secretariat/Board Secretary
<b>Apologies</b>	
Simon Wessely Greg Sinfield Jane Furniss Mathangi Asokan Emir Feisal	

#### 1. Apologies and matters arising

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Emir Feisal, Simon Wessely, Jane Furniss, Mathangi Asokan and Greg Sinfield.
- 1.2 The minutes of the 14 July 2022 meeting were agreed.

#### 2. Chief Executive's Report and Management Information Pack

##### 2.1 The Chief Executive:

- provided an update on the business plan and the 2021-22 and 2022-23 selection exercise programmes;
- provided an update on Chair and Commissioner recruitment;
- provided a legally privileged update on ongoing litigation; 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.

#### **Advisory Group**

3.2 The Head of Selection Policy, in the absence of the Advisory Group Chair, reported back from the Advisory Group (AG), which had met on 19 July.

3.3 The AG reviewed the situational questions for Chancery Master and Finance Members, Social Entitlement Chamber and the role play for Recorder.

#### **Audit and Risk Committee**

3.4 Sarah Lee reported back on the work of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) following its meeting on 28 July.

3.5 The ARC had its regular review of the corporate risk register and a deep dive discussion into the 'Diversity of applicants and progression' risk.

3.6 The ARC received an update on all internal and external audit activity. The National Audit Office (NAO) had confirmed that, following the audit of the 2021/22 accounts, it had no recommendations to make.

3.7 During the period April-June 2022, 4 security incidents were reported, none of which required reporting to the Information Commissioner's Office. No incidents of fraud or whistleblowing were reported during Q1.

#### **Welsh Matters Committee**

3.8 Barry Morgan reported back from the Welsh Matters Committee, which had met just before the Board meeting on 8 September.

3.9 The Committee had considered exercises with Welsh posts currently in progress and heard an update on progress from the action register.

3.10 The Committee discussed an ongoing consideration of use of Welsh language application forms and agreed on its preferred approach, which would be taken forward over the coming months.

3.11 Barry Morgan reported back from his recent meeting with the President of Welsh Tribunals.

**4. Chairman's Report** [this item was taken before item 2]

- 4.1 The Chairman reported back on his meeting with the new Lord Chancellor.
- 4.2 The Chairman reported back on his meeting with the Lord Chief Justice on 20 July.
- 4.3 Brie Stevens-Hoare had attended an online event by the Property Bar Association on 25 July to promote the Tribunal Judge - Land Registration Division exercise to Property Bar Association membership.
- 4.4 Barry Morgan had met with the President of Welsh Tribunals on 22 August.
- 4.5 Sarah Lee had attended a DDJ pre-application seminar on 6 September for the Association of Lawyers for Children.

**5. Proposals for JAC Board Effectiveness Review 2022-23**

- 5.1 The acting Head of Secretariat presented a paper with proposals for a JAC Board Effectiveness Review for 2022-23, assessing how a future JAC Board Evaluation could align with new HM Treasury and Cabinet Office guidance for Arm's Length Bodies.
- 5.2 Following discussion, the Board agreed to the principles of the approach set out and the timings of the review in light of the new guidance.

**6. Update and evaluation on the Selection Tool development work programme**

- 6.1 The Head of Selection Policy presented a paper setting out a progress update and evaluation on the two-year programme of work that the Board agreed in October 2018, following recommendations for further improvements to selection tools arising out of the independent review conducted by Work Psychology Group (WPG).
- 6.2 The Board noted that the completion of this work had been delayed due to the pandemic but that all agreed actions had now been completed and that changes had now been embedded as part of business-as-usual operations within the organisation.
- 6.3 The Board noted for information the evaluation and work completed to date.

**7. Publication of NatCen International Research Project**

- 7.1 The Head of Targeted Outreach and Research presented an update outlining the next steps towards publication of the NatCen International Research project.
- 7.2 The Board noted the update for information.

## **8      Forward Look and AOB**

- 8.1   The Board noted the 2022 Forward Look and that the next Board meeting would be held on 13 October 2022 at Clive House.