

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (JAC) MEETING

14 September 2023

Minutes of Board Meeting

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

1. Apologies and matters arising

- 1.1. The minutes of the 13 July 2023 meeting were agreed.
- 1.2. The Chairman welcomed the new Deputy Chief Executive to her first board meeting.

2. Chief Executive's Report and Management Information Pack

2.1. The Chief Executive:

- Provided an update on changes to the senior leadership team;
- 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 Committees and Working Groups

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

Digital Board

- 3.2. Greg Sinfield reported back from the Digital Board meeting which was held on 27 July.
- 3.3. The Board noted that the Digital Team is now at full complement.
- 3.4. The Board were informed of the next government internal audit; this work will start in the autumn.
- 3.5. The Board received an update against the Digital Roadmap.

Welsh Matters Committee

- 3.6. Barry Morgan reported back from the Welsh Matters Committee meeting which took place on 13 July 2023.
- 3.7. The Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA) attended the WMC; the WMC was recently audited by the GIAA and the finalised audit report is with the JAC Audit and Risk Committee.
- 3.8. Barry Morgan provided an update on his meeting with Sir Gary Hickinbottom, the new President of Welsh Tribunals on 8 June and the Chief Executive of the Welsh Tribunals.
- 3.9. The Committee considered exercises with Welsh posts currently in progress and heard an update on progress from the action register.
- 3.10. The Committee further considered the Welsh Government White Paper proposals for a new “Tribunal system for Wales”.
- 3.11. The Committee agreed the final draft of the JAC’s Welsh Language Monitoring report. The report has since been translated into Welsh and will be published shortly.
- 3.12. The WMC noted its thanks for Mathu Asokan in her final meeting as a WMC member.

4. Chairman’s Report

- 4.1. The Chairman reported back on the following:

- Her attendance at the JAC staff stand-up meeting.
- The Chairman also provided an update on the ongoing Commissioner recruitment.

Commissioner updates

- Greg Sinfield attended an online outreach event with the Cheshire and Merseyside Judicial Diversity Workforce Group on 20th July 2023.
- Sue Hoyle attended a JUSTICE report launch on the rule of law on 11th September 2023.
- Mark Warby attended an event around the Bar for 2043: Thoughts for the Future at the Bar Council on 13th September 2023.

5. Review of Statutory Consultation – review of exercises launching in Quarters 3 and 4 2023/24 of the Forward Programme

- 5.1. The Head of Selection Policy presented the proposals for exercises launching in Quarters 3 and 4 following the review of Statutory Consultation.
- 5.2. The Board noted and accepted the proposals.

6. Qualitative Research into the JAC's Qualifying Test, conducted by Work Psychology Group

- 6.1. The Head of Analysis and Insight presented the findings of the qualitative stage of the Judicial Diversity Forum research project. A report by the Work Psychology Group and proposed next steps were presented.
- 6.2. Following discussion, the Board noted the findings and also endorsed the proposed next steps.

7. UK Judge of the European Court of Human Rights

- 7.1. The Head of Senior Appointments presented information regarding the proposed process for the UK Judge of the European Court of Human Rights.
- 7.2. The Board noted the information provided.

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 12 October 2023

8.2. This concluded the business of the Board.