

# JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (JAC) MEETING

12 December 2019

## Minutes of Board Meeting

| <b>Present</b>  |  |
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| <b>Commissioners</b>  | <b>Staff</b>   |
| Ajay Kakkar (Chairman)<br>Anne Rafferty (Vice Chairman)<br>Mathangi Asokan<br>Anuja Dhir<br>Sarah Falk<br>Jane Furniss<br>Sue Hoyle<br>Andrew Kennon<br>Sarah Lee<br>Brie Stevens-Hoare<br>Philip Sycamore<br>Simon Wessely | Chief Executive<br>Deputy Chief Executive<br>Deputy Head of Operations<br>Head of Selection Policy<br>Head of Diversity and Engagement<br>Head of Secretariat/Board Secretary<br>Head of Senior Appointments<br>Selection Exercise Manager |
| <b>Apologies:</b><br>Emir Feisal  | <b>Observers:</b><br>Executive Assistant<br>Assistant Statistician   |

### 1. Apologies and matters arising

- 1.1. Apologies were received from Emir Feisal who was acting as an Assigned Commissioner for a JAC exercise in Wales.
- 1.2. The minutes of the 7 November 2019 meeting were agreed.
- 1.3. No interests were declared by any Commissioners in respect of any matters under discussion on the agenda.

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

2.1. The Chief Executive:

- reported on the agreed two-year programme with HMCTS and the work conducted to date; and
- provided an oral update on the JAC's financial position.

### 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.

#### **Welsh Matters Committee**

- 3.2. Brie Stevens-Hoare (BSH) reported back from the Welsh Matters Committee (WMC) held on 7 November 2019.
- 3.3. BSH reported she reported back to the WMC on the Legal Wales Conference.
- 3.4. The WMC noted the publication of the Welsh Government Rapid Review and the publication of a report from the Commission on Justice in Wales which contained a recommendation for a separate jurisdiction for Wales.

#### **Digital Board**

- 3.5. Andrew Kennon (AK) reported back from the last Digital Board held on 21 November 2019.
- 3.6. AK reported that the digital team is now at full complement.
- 3.7. AK reported that Google Docs is now being used by many panellists enabling a more streamlined process.
- 3.8. The Chief Executive updated the Board on the development of the new JAC website.

#### **Advisory Group**

- 3.9. Jane Furniss (JF) reported back from the Advisory Group (AG) held on 3 December 2019.
- 3.10. The AG considered the situational questions for a number of upcoming exercises.
- 3.11. JF reported on the benefits of looking at the situational questions as a whole rather than individually to ensure in particular that the diversity aspects were considered.

#### **4. Chairman's Report**

- 4.1. The Chairman reported that he held meetings with the Lord Chief Justice, the Senior President of Tribunals and the Senior Presiding Judge.
- 4.2. The Chairman also chaired the Judicial Diversity Forum in early December, the first meeting under its new format.
- 4.3. He will host the Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland (JABS) and the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission (NIJAC) in January for our first official joint annual meeting.
- 4.4. Commissioners were invited to update the Board on any activity in which they have had participated since the last meeting.
- 4.5. Mathangi Asokan met with CILEx President Matthew Foster. Sarah Falk met with Simon Davis, President of the Law Society.

## **5. Conflicts of interest – review of guidance**

- 5.1. The Head of Secretariat presented the updated guidance on Conflict of Interest Rules for Selection Decisions.
- 5.2. The Board endorsed the paper subject to clarification on a point of practicality.

## **6. Circuit Judge 2020 – selection process**

- 6.1. The Selection Exercise Manager presented the paper outlining the planned process and timeline for the forthcoming Circuit Judge exercise.
- 6.2. The Board was asked to approve the high-level process and timeline for the exercise.
- 6.3. Following discussion, the Board agreed with the planned process and timeline.

## **7. s9(4) Deputy High Court Judge 2020 – selection process**

- 7.1. The Head of Senior Appointments presented the paper outlining the proposed selection process for the s9(4) Deputy High Court Judge 2020.
- 7.2. The Board was asked to note the findings and agree that proposed actions.
- 7.3. Following discussion, the Board noted the findings and approved the selection process set out in the paper.

## **8. Feedback on last High Court exercise 2018-19**

- 8.1. The Head of Senior Appointments presented a paper for information on feedback received on the last High Court exercise 2018-19 from judicial panel members and a cadre of newly appointed High Court Judges.
- 8.2. Following discussion, the Board noted the findings.

## **9. Note from Judicial Office on support for section 9 judges**

- 9.1. The Board acknowledged for information, a note from Judicial Office on support for section 9 judges.

## **10. Forward Look and AOB**

- 10.1. The Board noted the Forward Look and the Chairman confirmed the next Board meeting will be held on 13 February 2020.
- 10.2. This concluded the business of the Board.