

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (JAC) MEETING

9 July 2020

Minutes of Board Meeting

Present	
Commissioners	Staff
Ajay Kakkar (Chairman) Anne Rafferty (Vice Chairman) Jane Furniss Brie Stevens-Hoare Andrew Kennon Sarah Lee Anuja Dhir Sarah Falk Sue Hoyle Emir Feisal Simon Wessely Mathangi Asokan Greg Sinfield Barry Morgan Christa Christensen	Chief Executive Deputy Chief Executive Head of Operations and Digital Head of Operational Delivery Head of Selection Policy Head of Secretariat/Board Secretary Head of Diversity and Engagement Senior Selection Exercise Team Manager Senior Digital Communications Manager Selection Exercise Team Manager The Senior Digital Delivery Manager
Apologies: None.	Observer: Senior Policy Advisor

1. Apologies and matters arising

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed to the Board Judge Christa Christensen, the new Judicial Commissioner (Tribunals), and Dr Barry Morgan, the new Lay Commissioner with special knowledge of Wales.
- 1.2 The Chairman noted this brings the Board up to full complement for the first time since June 2019.
- 1.3 The minutes of the 11 June 2020 meeting were agreed.
- 1.4 Lay Commissioners declared an interest in item 7, s9(4) Deputy High Court Judge Selection Process.

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;

- provided an update on JAC's business continuity plans in response to the COVID 19 outbreak;
- provided an update on the JAC's financial position;
- reported on the JAC Pulse Survey results from June; and
- provided an update on the new JAC Diversity measures and the Judicial Diversity Forum Officials meeting.

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 reported the Welsh Matters Committee (WMC) welcomed Rhian Davies-Rees, Head of Welsh Tribunals at the Welsh Government, as a guest to the Committee meeting.

3.3 The Committee was updated on the issue of a report on the implementation of the Law Commission proposals, one of which related to improving the accessibility of Welsh law, a piece of work supported by the JAC in Welsh Government consultations.

3.4 The Committee was asked to note the ongoing work collating diversity data across Welsh exercises with a view to disclosing the data to the Welsh Government where numbers are large enough to share this data separately without compromising candidates' confidentiality.

3.5 The next meeting of the WMC will take place in September 2020 and it is expected Barry Morgan, the new JAC Lay Commissioner with special knowledge of Wales, will take on Chairing responsibilities from then onwards.

Digital Board

3.6 Andrew Kennon (AK) reported back from the June Digital Board that JAC is on track to deliver the strategy outlined in the update to the Commission Board in November 2019.

3.7 The development of a core digital platform, the Minimum Viable Product (MVP), was delivered in June as scheduled.

3.8 The new JAC website is scheduled for delivery by November 2020.

3.9 Communication to JARS account holders and staff is underway in line with the agreed JARS retirement Communications plan.

4. Chairman's Report

4.1 The Chairman provided an update on Commissioner recruitment.

4.2 The Chairman reported that he held a successful bilateral meeting with the Lord Chief Justice earlier this month.

4.3 The Chairman also met with the Senior Presiding Judge, and with the Judicial Appointments and Conduct Ombudsman (JACO).

5. JAC Business Continuity and Recovery Plan up to December

5.1 The Chief Executive presented the JAC Business Continuity and Recovery Plan to December 2020.

5.2 This plan reports back on the actions to be taken to recover those exercises that were "paused" in March 2020, and considers how we might mitigate the risks for selection days from beginning of October up to the end of December 2020.

5.3 Our planning approach aims to deliver the pre-COVID19 selection exercise programme for 2020-21 agreed with business partners in order to meet the needs of the courts and tribunals.

5.4 Following discussion, the Board endorsed the proposed JAC Business Continuity and Recovery Plan to December 2020.

6. JAC Strategy 2020-2023 and 2020-21 Business Plan

6.1 The Deputy Chief Executive presented the 2020-23 JAC Strategy and 2020-21 Business Plan.

6.2 The JAC strategy 2020-23 has been updated since it was considered by the Board in March 2020, largely to reflect business continuity and recovery planning in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.

6.3 The Commission endorsed the updated 2020-23 strategy, incorporating the business plan for 2020-21, for publication on the JAC website

7. s9(4) Deputy High Court Judge Selection Process

7.1 The Senior Selection Exercise Team Manager presented the revised high-level process for this year's s9(4) Deputy High Court Judge exercise due to launch in September 2020.

7.2 Following discussion the Commission endorsed the revised high-level process for this exercise and the proposal to launch in September 2020.

8. Recorder 2020 Selection Process

8.1 The Selection Exercise Manager presented the high-level process for the next Recorder exercise due to launch in September 2020.

8.2 Following discussion the Commission approved the proposed high-level process.

9 Annual Report and Accounts 2019/20

9.1 The Senior Digital Communications Manager presented the 2019-20 Annual Report and Accounts seeking the Board's agreement to lay the report in Parliament.

9.2 The Board noted and approved the 2019/20 Annual Report and Accounts for laying in Parliament.

10 Digital Presentation on Minimum Viable Product (MVP)

10.1 The Senior Digital Delivery Manager presented the 'Minimum Viable Product' (MVP) to the Board.

10.2 The minimum viable product refers to the JAC Digital Platform being able to support the end to end selection process.

10.3 The Board noted the work completed so far.

11 Forward Look and AOB

11.1 The Board noted the Forward Look and the Chairman confirmed the next Board meeting would be held on 10 September 2020.

11.2 The Chairman offered the gratitude and appreciation of the Board to its outgoing Vice Chairman Lady Justice Anne Rafferty. In particular he highlighted her professional contribution and the personal support she gave to the JAC during her tenure as JAC Vice Chairman since 2017.

11.3 This concluded the business of the Board.