

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (JAC) MEETING

8 October 2020

Minutes of Board Meeting

Present	
Commissioners	Staff
Ajay Kakkar (Chairman) Sue Carr (Vice Chairman) Mathangi Asokan Chrisa Christensen Anuja Dhir Sarah Falk Emir Feisal Jane Furniss Sue Hoyle Andrew Kennon Sarah Lee Barry Morgan Greg Sinfield Simon Wessely	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
Apologies: Brie Stevens-Hoare	Observers Head of Senior Appointments Selection Exercise Manager

1. Apologies and matters arising

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Brie Stevens-Hoare.
- 1.2 The minutes of the 10 September 2020 meeting were agreed.
- 1.3 No interests were declared by any Commissioner in respect of any matter under discussion on the agenda.

2. Chief Executive's Report and Management Information Pack

2.1 The Chief Executive:

- reported on the successful publication of the combined statistical report and the release of the JAC diversity measures;
- highlighted the JAC internal activities, and external social media activity, to mark Black History Month and reported the appointment of internal JAC Race Champions;
- provided an update on how outreach events are being held in line with COVID-19 restrictions;

- reported on the pressures that staff have faced due to the impact of COVID-19 and updated the Commission that there was limited capacity for the time being to undertake any new initiatives further to those in the existing business plan. The Chairman noted this and passed on the Board's appreciation to JAC staff for all their work thus far in challenging circumstances;
- reported on the agreed two-year programme with HMCTS and the work conducted to date;
- provided an update on the JAC's business continuity and recovery plans in response to the COVID-19 outbreak;
- provided an update on the JAC's financial position.

3. Chairman's Report

3.1 The Chairman reported that he had chaired the Judicial Diversity Forum (JDF) on 14 September ahead of the publication of the combined statistical report on 17 September.

3.2 Barry Morgan reported back on his introductory meeting with the First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford which took place on 30 September.

4. s9(1) authorisations: role and approach of JAC

4.1 The Head of Selection Policy presented a paper on the authorisation of candidates to act as a judge of the High Court under s9(1) of the Senior Courts Act 1981.

4.2 Following detailed discussion, the Commission noted the revised joint policy for the Circuit Judge, CACD exercise, and agreed to explore a revised approach to other s9(1) authorisations in light of the judiciary's statement on the purpose of such authorisations in July.

5. Equal Merit approach: Update on 'tie-break'

5.1 The Head of Diversity and Engagement updated the Commission on progress to pilot an online tie-break tool as an alternative to a second interview, and requested the Board consider two minor clarifications of the current equal merit approach.

5.2 Following discussion, the Commission approved the proposed changes to the equal merit approach.

6. Information Assurance Training

6.1 The Head of Corporate Services requested the Commissioners note the requirement for them to complete the annual Information Assurance Training and confirm to JAC Secretariat that they have read and understood the information, if possible, before the end of October 2020.

6.2 The Board had a full discussion of the Information Assurance arrangements particularly as it continues to operate remotely and agreed to complete the Information Assurance Training.

7. Forward Look and AOB

7.1 The Board noted the Forward Look and the Chairman confirmed the next Board meeting would be held on 12 November 2020.

7.2 This concluded the business of the Board.