

# JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (JAC) MEETING

10 October 2019

## Minutes of Board Meeting

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

### 1. Apologies and matters arising

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Anne Rafferty (Vice Chairman).
- 1.2 The minutes of the 12 September 2019 meeting were agreed.
- 1.3 No interests were declared by any Commissioner in respect of any matter under discussion on the agenda.
- 1.4 The Chairman welcomed Sarah Falk as a newly appointed Judicial Commissioner to the Board. The Chairman offered the gratitude and appreciation of the JAC to Fiona Monk for her contribution and personal support to the Board during her term as a Commissioner.

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

- 2.1 The Chief Executive:

- provided an update on Commissioner recruitment;
- reported on the agreed two-year programme with HMCTS and the work conducted to date;
- reported on launch of new People Survey;
- 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.

#### **Digital Board Meeting**

3.2 Andrew Kennon (AK) reported back from the Digital Board (DB) held on 26 September 2019. The DB welcomed two new members, Sue Hoyle and the JAC Programme Manager.

3.3 AK reported that the DB was updated on the progress of the digital strategy and development of various selection tools.

3.4 The DB considered the recent Digital Business Continuity Plan test and the draft communications plan to key users of the new platform.

#### **Welsh Matters Committee**

3.5 Brie Stevens-Hoare (BSH) reported back from the Welsh Matters Committee (WMC) held on 12 September 2019.

3.6 The WMC noted that Brie Stevens-Hoare would be taking over as interim Chair of the Committee and will be supported in her role by Mathangi Asokan. The outgoing Chair, Philippa Whipple expressed her thanks to Brie for her support and wished her well for her future role.

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

4.1 The Chairman reported that since his update at the September meeting he has met with the new CILEx president and the new Law Society president and is due to meet with the Lord Chief Justice later this month.

4.2 The Chairman noted the recent Westminster Halls debate on Procedure for Appointing Judges. There was support for the work of the JAC but recognised need for more work on diversity.

4.3 The Board also noted the positive feedback received in response to the calibre of appointed High Court Judges.

4.4 Commissioners were invited to update the Board on any activities in which they had participated since the last meeting.

4.5 AK updated the Board on his recent attendance at a Judicial Office workshop for City Solicitors.

4.6 Mathu Asokan updated the Board on her recent participation in a panel at the Solicitors' Association of Higher Courts Advocates (SAHCA) Annual Conference.

4.7 Anuja Dhir updated the Board on her participation in the Bar Council/CPS Event: Marking 100 years of women in the legal profession.

## **5. Recorded Roleplay – evaluation of pilot**

5.1 The Senior Policy Manager and Senior Selection Exercise Manager presented a paper setting out the findings from the pilot of the recorded roleplay on the 111 Road User Charging Adjudicator (RUCA) exercise, and the recommended next steps.

5.2 The Board were asked to note the findings and to agree in principle to run a second pilot of the recorded roleplay on the next First-tier Tribunal exercise, the details of which will be brought to the Board for approval in due course.

5.3 Following discussion, the Board agreed to the recommendations set out in the paper and asked for the next pilot exercise to return to the Board for consideration after the dry-run, demonstrating both live and recorded versions of the same role play.

## **6. Development of Commission Board Strategy 2020-23**

6.1 The Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive presented the Board with the proposed strategic goals for the JAC through to 2023.

6.2 The Board was invited to discuss the proposed strategic goals and next steps.

6.3 Following discussion, the Board agreed to the recommendations and the next steps.

## **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 7 November 2019.

7.2 The Board also noted Nora Brodian was leaving the JAC, thanking her for her support to the Board.

7.3 This concluded the business of the Board.