

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (JAC) MEETING
21 April 2016
Minutes of Meeting

Present	
Commissioners	Staff
Ian Burnett (Vice Chairman) Martin Forde Emily Jackson Usha Karu Noel Lloyd Alexandra Marks Katharine Rainsford Lucy Scott-Moncrieff Valerie Strachan Phillip Sycamore (by telephone) Alan Wilkie	Chief Executive Head of Operations Head of Policy and Change Head of Senior and International Appointments Head of Selection Policy and Process Head of Equality and Diversity Senior Communications Manager Private Secretary to the Chairman Board Secretary
Apologies: Christopher Simmonds Andrew Ridgway Debra van Gene.	

1. Governance and working arrangements during interim period

1.1 The Vice-Chairman outlined that the purpose of the meeting was to obtain approval from the Commission of the proposed transitional arrangements for dealing with the interregnum before a new Chairman is appointed and takes up the post. In particular, the proposal involved the Vice-Chairman assuming responsibility for certain core functions previously undertaken by the Chairman (as permitted by statute), and being supported in the governance of the Commission by a group of three lay Commissioners and one professional representative Commissioner.

1.2 The Commission agreed to the arrangements as outlined, and noted that a short explanatory statement of these arrangements will be published on the JAC website.

2. Any other business

2.1 The Commission discussed the request for contributions to an academic book from several Commissioners, mainly those who had attended the JAC 10th anniversary conference hosted by the University of Birmingham last year. The Commission agreed that the Commissioners involved would discuss further outside of the meeting the possible contributions they might make.

2.2 The Commission discussed the JAC's proposed academic review of the JAC's large entry level exercises. Emily Jackson informed the Commission of the plan to conduct an initial scoping exercise in order to identify where the particular focus should be, followed by a report of the findings and recommendations.

2.3 The Vice-Chairman reported on his meeting with the Senior Presiding Judge, together with the Chief Executive, the Head of Operations and the Head of Policy and Change to discuss upcoming entry-level competitions. The JAC had set out the plans for the use of various shortlisting tools, including an online qualifying test, for the upcoming Deputy District Judge Magistrates' Court exercise. The Senior Presiding Judge had noted that a multi-stage process was necessary, in light of the high number of applications anticipated, in comparison to the small number of vacancies.

2.4 The Vice-Chairman noted that the Ministry of Justice had agreed to temporarily chair the Judicial Diversity Forum before a new JAC Chairman is appointed. This was still to be agreed by the Forum, who will be consulted on this proposal in advance of the next scheduled meeting in May.

2.5 The Commission agreed for oral feedback to be offered to unsuccessful candidates who had been interviewed for the recent High Court exercise. While Commissioners were supportive, it was noted that further discussions would be undertaken with the panel to determine the feasibility and scope of the proposal.

Date of next meeting

The Vice Chairman confirmed that the next Board meeting would be held on **Thursday 12 May**.