

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (JAC) MEETING

11 November 2010

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING

PRESENT

Commissioners

Roger Toulson (Vice-Chairman)
David Bean
Jill Black
Hazel Genn
Geoffrey Inkin
Ed Nally
Sara Nathan
David Pearl
Francis Plowden
Harriet Spicer

Staff

Chief Executive
Director, Courts Appointments
Director, Tribunals Appointments and Operational Policy
Director, Operational Services
Director, Strategy & Outreach
Deputy Director Operational Services (for item 2)
Assistant Director, Operational Policy (for item 3)
Assistant Director Equality and Fair Treatment (for item 5)
Private Secretary to the Vice-Chairman

1. Apologies and matters arising

1.1 Apologies were received from Frances Kirkham, Charles Newman, Lorna Boreland-Kelly and Jonathan Sumption.

1.2 The Vice-Chairman welcomed David Bean as a new Commissioner.

1.3 All Commissioners confirmed they had no personal interest in any matters to be discussed on this agenda.

1.4 The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

2. Annual review of good character (JAC/10/67)

2.1 The Commission conducted its annual review of the good character guidance and provided comments.

2.2 It was agreed that comments would be reflected in a final draft, which would be circulated to Commissioners prior to publication.

3. Financial character checks (JAC/10/68)

3.1 The Commission noted the new process for checking Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVA). It also agreed the proposed contingency arrangements for conducting financial checks, depending upon the progress of discussions with HMRC.

3.2 It was agreed further work would be undertaken on the costing of financial character checks, consulting the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and that a further paper would be put to the Commission in due course.

4. Six monthly complaints analysis (JAC/10/69)

4.1 The Commission noted the six monthly complaints analysis and the annual update on Freedom of Information (Fol) requests.

4.2 It was agreed an analysis of complaints covering the whole existence of the JAC would be provided to Commissioners.

5. Cost of additional diversity questions on Application Monitoring Form (JAC/10/70)

5.1 The Commission discussed amending the Application Monitoring Form in order to comply with best practice guidance issued by the Equality and Human Rights Commission in relation to the Equality Act 2010. It noted that the cost of so doing was affordable, but requested further advice on the potential consequences of implementation.

5.2 It was agreed that a paper would be brought to the December board meeting.

6. Report back from working groups

6.1 The Audit and Risk Committee had met on 10 November and had discussed the risk register, financial accounts and performance at the end of the second quarter. It had determined that a piece of work on conflicts of interest would be of assistance to Commissioners and staff would take this forward.

6.2 The Quality Assurance Working Group had met earlier that day to discuss closedown reports and received oral updates on qualifying tests, complaints and progress with panel chairs appraisals.

7. Directors' reports (JAC/10/71)

7.1 The Director of Courts Appointments provided an update on selection exercises, including District Judge (Civil) and Taxing Master of the Senior Courts (Costs Judge) (**JAC/10/72**), which was for information only.

7.2 The Director of Operational Services updated the Commission on IT systems, changes in support arrangements and progress on the future programme.

7.3 The Director of Tribunal Appointments and Operational Policy provided an update on relevant selection exercises.

8. Interim Chief Executive's report (JAC/10/73)

8.1 The Interim Chief Executive updated the Commission on the MoJ's end to end review of judicial appointments and the JAC's People, Processes and Performance (PPP) project. It was agreed that a substantial update on the PPP project would be provided to the Commission at the February meeting.

9. Vice-Chairman's report

9.1 The Vice-Chairman informed Commissioners of the forthcoming meetings he was due to attend and provided an update on the Public Bodies Bill and the recruitment of the new Chairman.

9.2 He suggested that different teams should be invited to future meetings on an occasional basis, to give more exposure to their work. It was agreed that the Outreach team would attend the December meeting.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting would take place on 09 December 2010.