

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (JAC) MEETING
10 November 2016
Minutes of Meeting

Present	
Commissioners	Staff
Ian Burnett (Vice Chairman) Martin Forde Emily Jackson Usha Karu Noel Lloyd Alexandra Marks Katharine Rainsford Andrew Ridgway (items 1-4 only) Christopher Simmonds Alan Wilkie	Chief Executive Head of Operations Head of Policy and Change Head of Equality and Diversity Senior Manager, Operational Policy Programme Manager Private Secretary to the Chairman Board Secretary Communications Manager

1. Apologies and matters arising

1.1 Apologies were received from Ajay Kakkar (Chairman), Lucy Scott-Moncrieff, Valerie Strachan, Phillip Sycamore and Debra van Gene.

1.2 Martin Forde and Alexandra Marks declared that as fee-paid judges they had a personal interest in an agenda item for discussion, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) consultation on modernising judicial terms and conditions.

1.3 The minutes of the 6 October 2016 meeting were agreed.

1.4 The Board Action Register was noted.

2. Chief Executive's Report and Management Information Pack

2.1 The Chief Executive:

- provided an oral update on the JAC's financial position;
- reported on staffing levels at the JAC and the outcome of the 2016 staff survey;
- reported on the panellist recruitment campaign to refresh the current cadre; and
- provided an update on the selection exercise programme for the current year, 2016/17.

2.2 The Commission considered the monthly Management Information Pack. The pack provided an overview of JAC activity up to the end of October 2016.

3. Report Back from Working Groups

3.1 Noel Lloyd provided the Commission with an update of the Audit and Risk Committee's meeting of 20 October 2016. He informed the Commission that the Committee considered the

Management Information Pack, the Corporate Risk Register and the mid-year Assurance Framework report.

3.2 Usha Karu provided the Commission with an update on the Judicial Diversity Forum's meeting of 27 October 2016 which was chaired by Lord Keen. She advised that the topics discussed at the forum included the Lammy Review of BAME representation in the Criminal Justice System, the pre-application training working group chaired by Lord Ouseley and the MoJ consultation paper, "Modernising Judicial Terms and Conditions". David Lammy MP attended the Forum and provided an update on the progress of his Review. The Forum agreed that the working group should develop specific information on routes to judicial appointment for each profession, starting from the point of qualification and going through to entry level judicial appointment. The pathways will outline the steps that candidates from each profession should consider before applying.

4. Chairman's Report

4.1 On behalf of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman provided an update on the Chairman's activities since the last Commission meeting on 6 October. He reported that the Chairman had met with Judges of the Old Bailey, the Lord Chancellor, the Chairman of the Justice Select Committee and the President of the Law Society.

4.2 The Vice-Chairman then reported on his presentation at an event organised by the Chancery Bar Association and on the JAC's recent meeting with the Council of Circuit Judges, which he had attended.

4.3 The Vice-Chairman then invited Commissioners to comment on relevant activities of particular interest with which they had been involved. Martin Forde reported that he had spoken at an event organised in conjunction with the Crown Prosecution Service and the National Black Crown Prosecutors Association. Katharine Rainsford and Alexandra Marks reported on their attendance at the Spark21 conference to celebrate the first 100 years of Women in Law. Alexandra Marks then reported on her attendance at the Leading Women in the Law roundtable, chaired by the Lord Chancellor. Emily Jackson reported on her work to provide oral feedback for unsuccessful candidates in the Court of Appeal exercise. Noel Lloyd reported on his attendance at the 2016 Hamlyn Lecture Series in Cardiff, chaired by the Lord Chief Justice.

5. JAC's response to the MoJ consultation on modernising judicial terms and conditions

5.1 The Commission considered a paper seeking its agreement to the JAC's draft response to the Ministry of Justice consultation paper, "Modernising Judicial Terms and Conditions."

5.2 The Commission provided comments on the draft response. It was agreed that a sub-group of Commissioners should meet to consider and finalise the revised version, ahead of the consultation closing date on 1 December.

6. Pilot evaluation: submitting self-assessment after a qualifying test

6.1 The Senior Manager, Operational Policy, presented a paper seeking the Commission's approval to allow self-assessment forms to be submitted after qualifying tests (QT) for appropriate exercises. This follows the successful pilot of this approach in the Deputy District Judge (Magistrates' Courts) exercise.

6.2 After careful consideration, the Commission agreed that the approach will be added as an option to consider for future exercises where a QT is to be used, noting that it will be adopted in the 2017 Recorder exercise.

7. District Judge s94 list review

7.1 The Programme Manager presented a paper seeking the Commission's decision in relation to a list that had been established under s94 of the Constitutional Reform Act (CRA) 2005 following the 2015 District Judge Selection exercise.

7.2 The Commission agreed to make a decision on whether to close the list once the Selection and Character Committee has had an opportunity to consider candidates to fill a further s87 CRA vacancy request which is expected imminently.

Date of next meeting

The Vice Chairman confirmed that the next Board meeting would be held on **Wednesday 7 December 2016**.