

**JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (JAC) MEETING**  
**9 March 2017**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

<b>Present</b>	
<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Ajay Kakkar (Chairman) Ian Burnett (Vice Chairman) Martin Forde Usha Karu Noel Lloyd Alexandra Marks Katharine Rainsford Andrew Ridgway Lucy Scott-Moncrieff Valerie Strachan Phillip Sycamore Debra Van Gene Philippa Whipple	Chief Executive Head of Policy and Change Senior Manager (Operational Policy) Private Secretary to the Chairman

**1. Apologies and matters arising**

1.1 No apologies had been received.

1.2 All Commissioners confirmed that they had no personal interest in any matters to be discussed on the agenda.

1.3 The minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> February meeting were agreed.

1.4 The Chairman then informed Commissioners that Chris Simmonds had stood down from the Board with effect from 24 February. Commissioners paid tribute to the significant contribution he had made to the Commission.

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

2.1 The Chief Executive:

- provided an update on the current Commissioner Recruitment process;
- provided an update on the current Recorder competition;
- provided an update on the JAC's financial position;
- reported on staffing levels at the JAC;
- reported on the Annual Panel Member event held in March;
- 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 February 2017.

2.3 Philippa Whipple updated the Commission on the *McCloud* judgment relating to judicial pensions, which was now subject to an appeal by the Ministry of Justice. Commissioners noted that this issue was of interest to the JAC, and Philippa Whipple agreed to update the Commission on any new developments.

### **3. Chairman's Report**

3.1 The Chairman provided an update on his activities since his last report at the February meeting. He reported that he had met with the Lord Chief Justice, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice, and the current and former Chairs of the High Court Judges Association. He had also chaired the Judicial Diversity Forum, attended a planning meeting for the Lord Chief Justice exercise, and attended a planning meeting to recruit new Commissioners. Finally, he was joined by the Vice Chairman in giving oral evidence to the Constitution Committee.

3.2 The Chairman then invited Commissioners to comment on relevant activities of particular interest with which they had been involved.

### **4. Report Back from Working Groups**

4.1 Noel Lloyd provided the Commission with a brief update on the inaugural meeting of the Welsh Matters Committee held earlier that day. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to the First Minister of Wales to provide an update.

### **5. Section 9(1) Policy Review**

5.1 The Senior Manager (Operational Policy) presented a paper seeking the Commission's approval of amendments to the Section 9(1) Policy. After careful consideration Commissioners:

- Confirmed that the JAC's Assigned Commissioner should continue to be provided with statements of suitability for all candidates for Designated Civil Posts (DCJ) and Designated Family Judge (DFJ) posts.
- Agreed to clarify that we use the Equal Merit Provision in line with JAC processes on stand-alone section 9(1) exercises, and not in respect of DCJ and DFJ posts.

- Agreed that the choice as to which specific competency framework is used should be an operational decision and not prescribed in the policy.

**Date of next meeting**

The Chairman confirmed that the next Board meeting would be held on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017.**