

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (JAC) MEETING

15 April 2021

Minutes of Board Meeting

| Present | |
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| Commissioners | Staff |
| Ajay Kakkar (Chairman) Sue Carr (Vice Chairman) Mathangi Asokan Christa Christensen Anuja Dhir Sarah Falk Emir Feisal Jane Furniss Sue Hoyle Andrew Kennon Sarah Lee Barry Morgan Greg Sinfield Simon Wessely | Chief Executive Deputy Chief Executive Head of Operations and Digital Head of Operational Delivery Head of Selection Policy Head of Diversity and Engagement Head of Secretariat/Board Secretary Senior Policy Adviser Senior Selection Exercise Manager |
| Apologies: Brie Stevens-Hoare | |

1. Apologies and matters arising

- 1.1 The minutes of the 11 March 2021 meeting were agreed.
- 1.2 No interests were declared by any Commissioner in respect of any matter under discussion on the agenda.

2. Chief Executive's Report and Management Information Pack

- 2.1 The Chief Executive:
 - reported on the agreed two-year programme with HMCTS and the work conducted to date and noted it is the final update for the two-programme 2019-2021; and
 - provided an 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.

Welsh Matters Committee

- 3.2 Barry Morgan (BM) provided an update to the Board on the Welsh Matters Committee (WMC) meeting which took place on 15 April.
- 3.3 The WMC were updated on the Welsh Government's plan to amend the Mandatory Retirement Age for the Devolved Tribunals in line with the Ministry of Justice's recommendation of 75.
- 3.4 The WMC also discussed the scope of their review of the assessment of Welsh language and understanding of the administration of justice in Wales, with recommendations to follow in due course.

4. Chairman's Report

- 4.1 The Chairman noted the reappointment of Brie, Sarah Lee and Anuja and expressed his gratitude to them for their work over the last three years and their renewed commitment for the next three years.
- 4.2 The Chairman briefed the Board on his recent meetings with the Chair of the Bar Council and Chair of the Legal Services Board.
- 4.3 Greg Sinfield briefed the Board on his meeting with the Senior President of Tribunals.
- 4.4 Mathangi Asokan reported that she took part in the University of Wolverhampton Law Fair for graduating law students.
- 4.5 Sue Carr reported that she took part in an outreach event hosted by the Commercial Bar Association.

5. Circuit Judge 2021 – selection process

- 5.1 The Senior Selection Exercise Manager presented the high-level process for the next Circuit Judge exercise due to launch in May 2021.
- 5.2 Following discussion, the Commission approved the proposed high-level process.

6. Remote Assessment Working Group Evaluation

- 6.1 The Head of Selection Policy and Senior Policy Adviser presented the evaluation and further consideration of the JAC's remote approach to assessment.
- 6.2 The Commission noted the findings of the evaluation, validated by Work Psychology Group, that concludes that pivoting from a face to face approach to a remote approach to assessment has been successfully achieved by the JAC.

- 6.3 The Commission discussed the approach and agreed the recommendations, noting that this will be under constant review and a further evaluation will come back to the Board within 12 months.

7. JAC Strategy 2020-23 and Business Plan 2021-22

- 7.1 The Deputy Chief Executive presented the 2020-21 Business Plan alongside a refreshed 2020-23 Strategy.
- 7.2 The Deputy Chief Executive also summarised the strategy discussion from the Board on 14 April.
- 7.3 Following discussion, the Board endorsed the refreshed 2020-23 Strategy and proposed Business Plan for 2021-22.
- 7.4 The Board noted the successful delivery of the 2020-21 Business Plan and in particular expressed its gratitude to the JAC staff for their exceptional work during the unique circumstances of the last year.

8. Forward Look and AOB

- 8.1 The Board noted the 2021 Forward Look and the Chairman confirmed the next Board meeting would be held on 13 May 2021.
- 8.2 This concluded the business of the Board.