

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (JAC) MEETING

13 October 2022

Minutes of Board Meeting

Present	
Commissioners	Staff
Ajay Kakkar (Chairman) Sue Carr (Vice Chairman) Anuja Dhir Sue Hoyle Andrew Kennon Sarah Lee Barry Morgan Christa Christensen Greg Sinfield Jane Furniss Mathangi Asokan Adam Johnson (Observing)	Chief Executive Deputy Chief Executive Head of Operational Delivery Head of Senior Appointments Head of Analysis and Insight Head of Diversity and Engagement Head of Selection Policy Acting Head of Secretariat/Board Secretary
Apologies Simon Wessely Emir Feisal Brie Stevens-Hoare	

1. Apologies and matters arising

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Emir Feisal, Simon Wessely and Brie Stevens-Hoare.
- 1.2 The minutes of the 8 September 2022 meeting were agreed.

2. Chief Executive's Report and Management Information Pack

2.1 The Chief Executive:

- provided an update on the business plan and the 2021-22 and 2022-23 selection exercise programmes;
- provided an update on Chair and Commissioner recruitment;
- provided a legally privileged update on ongoing litigation;
- provided an update on the JAC's financial position and allocation for 2022-23; and
- presented the Board with an update on how the JAC proposes to manage the impact of Commissioner turnover next Summer in terms of continuity of our key Board sub-Committee(s) and Assigned Commissioner roles.

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.

Digital Board

- 3.2 Andrew Kennon (AK) reported back from the Digital Board (DB) which took place on 22 September 2022.
- 3.3 The DB received an update against the Digital Strategy – including on the current staffing situation in relation to the Digital Team and the plans to fill the vacant positions; the process by which we will enable applications in Welsh for candidates; and an update on the plans to separate out the Qualifying Test platform from the rest of the Digital platform, to enable more frequent release of code.
- 3.4 The DB also noted recent progress against the Roadmap which includes security updates; improvements to the User Interface of the Digital Platform and improvements to current features to enhance them further for JAC staff.
- 3.5 The DB were updated on the RAID Log and updated on QT error rates, which was still under the error rate expected.

4. Chairman's Report

- 4.1 The Chairman reported back on his recent attendance at the swearing in ceremony of the new Lord Chancellor and the opening of the Legal Year.
- 4.2 Jane Furniss attended an event for women of the North East Circuit on the afternoon of 8 September.
- 4.3 Anuja Dhir attended an event by the Cheshire and Merseyside Legal Diversity Working Group on 29 September to encourage solicitors and barristers to apply to join the judiciary. It was directly aimed at ethnic minority candidates.

5. Review of Statutory Consultation – review of exercises launching in Quarter 3 that still require a decision and those in Quarter 4 of the Forward Programme

- 5.1 The Head of Selection Policy presented a paper with recommendations for exercises launching in Q3 and Q4 to retain or dispense with statutory consultation according to the revised policy following the review of statutory consultation.
- 5.2 Following discussion, the Board agreed to the recommendations set out in line with published policy.

6. JAC Diversity: Statistics and Risks

- 6.1 The Head of Diversity and Engagement and Head of Analysis and Insight presented a paper to the Board updating on the JAC's progress on its diversity objectives.
- 6.2 This update was for information and discussion. It provided key statistical insights from the diversity statistics as presented in the annual Combined Statistics report published in July 2022 and included material from a paper which was presented to the JAC's Audit and Risk Committee in July 2022.
- 6.3 The Board noted the content of the update and the action for the Executive team to take forward any views on refocussing JAC and wider Judicial Diversity Forum (JDF) resources.
- 6.4 The Board noted that a further discussion would take place to consider how additional insights on the statistical information would be shared in regular diversity updates.

7 Forward Look and AOB

- 7.1 The Board noted the 2022 Forward Look and that the next Board meeting would be held on 10 November 2022 at Clive House.