

# JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (JAC) MEETING

14 September 2023

## Minutes of Board Meeting

<b>Present</b>	
<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Helen Pitcher (Chair) Mark Warby (Vice Chair) Anuja Dhir Jane Furniss Sue Hoyle Adam Johnson Andrew Kennon Sarah Lee Barry Morgan Greg Sinfield Simon Wessely	Chief Executive Deputy Chief Executive – Head of Strategy and Policy Head of Operations and Digital Head of Operational Delivery Head of Senior Appointments Head of Selection Policy Head of Analysis and Insight Head of Secretariat/Board Secretary
<b>Apologies</b> Emir Feisal Brie Stevens-Hoare	

### 1. Apologies and matters arising

- 1.1. The minutes of the 13 July 2023 meeting were agreed.
- 1.2. The Chairman welcomed the new Deputy Chief Executive to her first board meeting.

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

#### 2.1. The Chief Executive:

- Provided an update on changes to the senior leadership team;
- provided an update on the 2023/24 budget allocation;
- provided an update on the 2023-24 Judicial recruitment programme; and
- provided a legally privileged update on ongoing litigation.

### 3. Report back from Committees and Working Groups

- 3.1. The Chair asked Commissioners to report back on recent meetings of committees and working groups.

### **Digital Board**

- 3.2. Greg Sinfield reported back from the Digital Board meeting which was held on 27 July.
- 3.3. The Board noted that the Digital Team is now at full complement.
- 3.4. The Board were informed of the next government internal audit; this work will start in the autumn.
- 3.5. The Board received an update against the Digital Roadmap.

### **Welsh Matters Committee**

- 3.6. Barry Morgan reported back from the Welsh Matters Committee meeting which took place on 13 July 2023.
- 3.7. The Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA) attended the WMC; the WMC was recently audited by the GIAA and the finalised audit report is with the JAC Audit and Risk Committee.
- 3.8. Barry Morgan provided an update on his meeting with Sir Gary Hickinbottom, the new President of Welsh Tribunals on 8 June and the Chief Executive of the Welsh Tribunals.
- 3.9. The Committee considered exercises with Welsh posts currently in progress and heard an update on progress from the action register.
- 3.10. The Committee further considered the Welsh Government White Paper proposals for a new “Tribunal system for Wales”.
- 3.11. The Committee agreed the final draft of the JAC’s Welsh Language Monitoring report. The report has since been translated into Welsh and will be published shortly.
- 3.12. The WMC noted its thanks for Mathu Asokan in her final meeting as a WMC member.

## **4. Chairman’s Report**

- 4.1. The Chairman reported back on the following:

- Her attendance at the JAC staff stand-up meeting.
- The Chairman also provided an update on the ongoing Commissioner recruitment.

### **Commissioner updates**

- Greg Sinfield attended an online outreach event with the Cheshire and Merseyside Judicial Diversity Workforce Group on 20th July 2023.
- Sue Hoyle attended a JUSTICE report launch on the rule of law on 11th September 2023.
- Mark Warby attended an event around the Bar for 2043: Thoughts for the Future at the Bar Council on 13th September 2023.

## **5. Review of Statutory Consultation – review of exercises launching in Quarters 3 and 4 2023/24 of the Forward Programme**

- 5.1. The Head of Selection Policy presented the proposals for exercises launching in Quarters 3 and 4 following the review of Statutory Consultation.
- 5.2. The Board noted and accepted the proposals.

## **6. Qualitative Research into the JAC’s Qualifying Test, conducted by Work Psychology Group**

- 6.1. The Head of Analysis and Insight presented the findings of the qualitative stage of the Judicial Diversity Forum research project. A report by the Work Psychology Group and proposed next steps were presented.
- 6.2. Following discussion, the Board noted the findings and also endorsed the proposed next steps.

## **7. UK Judge of the European Court of Human Rights**

- 7.1. The Head of Senior Appointments presented information regarding the proposed process for the UK Judge of the European Court of Human Rights.
- 7.2. The Board noted the information provided.

## **8. Forward Look and AOB**

8.1. The Board noted the 2023 Forward Look and the Chairman confirmed the next Board meeting would be held on 12 October 2023

8.2. This concluded the business of the Board.