

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (JAC) MEETING

14 December 2023

Minutes of Board Meeting

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

1. Apologies and matters arising

- 1.1. The minutes of the 12 November 2023 meeting were agreed.
- 1.2. Apologies were received from Tan Ikram.
- 1.3. The Chairman welcomed Noel Arnold, Claire McGlynn, Uche Igbokwe and Anthony Harnden as observers in advance of their appointments as JAC Commissioners from January 2024.

2. Chief Executive's Report and Management Information Pack

- 2.1. The Chief Executive:
 - 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 Working Groups

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

Advisory Group

3.2. Sue Hoyle reported back from the Advisory Group meeting which was held on 28 November.

- JAC Commissioner Barry Morgan observed the Advisory Group.
- The Advisory Group reviewed several situational questions and role plays for upcoming exercises.
- The Advisory Group welcomed three new members to the Group.
- Sue provided a summary of the outcomes of her recent one-to-one meetings with them.

Digital Board

3.3. Andrew Kennon reported back on the Digital Board which took place on 23 November 2023.

3.4. The Board were updated on the status of the digital call-off contracts due to expire in February 2024.

3.5. The Board were updated on the call-off contract with TPXimpact which concludes at the end of January 2024.

3.6. The Board were updated on the Digital Team 'away day'.

3.7. The Board noted progress against the Digital roadmap including:

- Improvements to the qualifying test platform.
- Improvements to the application form.
- Improvements to the outreach report.

3.8. The Board expressed their thanks to Andrew Kennon at the conclusion of his term as Chair of the Digital Board, a role he has held since 2020.

4. Chairman's Report

4.1. The Chairman reported back on the following:

- The Chairman chaired the Judicial Diversity Forum on the 20th November.
- The Chairman met with the President of the Law Society on 22nd November.
- The Chairman met with the Lady Chief Justice of Northern Ireland on 28th November.
- The Chairman closed the JAC staff Away Day on the 12th December.

Commissioner updates

- Andrew Kennon attended the JAC Away Day as part of the panel on 12th December.

5. Insights from the 2023 Diversity of the Judiciary Statistics Report

- 5.1. The Head of Analysis and Insight presented some key insights from the 2023 Diversity of the Judiciary statistics report.
- 5.2. The Board noted the insights and approved the publication of the indicated sections of the insights as part of the JAC's Diversity Update.

6. s9 (1) Authorisation of Judges of the High Court Process Paper

- 6.1. The Senior Selection Exercise manager presented the proposals on the selection process for the s9 (1) Authorisation to Act as a High Court Judge selection exercise.
- 6.2. Following discussion, the Board agreed to the proposed process for this exercise.

7. District Judge (Magistrate's Court) Process Paper

- 7.1. The Selection Exercise manager presented the proposals on the selection process for District Judge (Magistrate's Courts) exercise.
- 7.2. Following discussion, the Board agreed to the proposed process for this exercise.

8. Deputy District Judge Process Paper

- 8.1. The Selection Exercise manager presented the proposals on the selection process for the Deputy District Judge exercise.
- 8.2. The Board agreed with the process for this exercise.

9. Candidate Feedback from Selection Days: Thematic Review

- 9.1. The Senior Selection Policy Advisor presented a thematic analysis of post-selection day candidate survey feedback.

9.2. The Board noted the findings.

10. Forward Look and AOB

10.1. The Board noted the 2024 Forward Look and the Chairman confirmed the next Board meeting would be held on 8th February 2024.

10.2. The Chairman noted her thanks to Commissioners Emir Feisal, Jane Furniss, Andrew Kennon and Simon Wessely on their final Board meeting and thanked them for their exceptional service as Commissioners over the last six years.

10.3. This concluded the business of the Board.