



BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2017 at 10:45AM

THISTLE HOUSE, 91 HAYMARKET TERRACE, EDINBURGH

- Present: Dr Michael Ewart, Acting Chairing Member
Mrs Alison Mitchell
Mrs Deirdre Fulton
Professor Stephen Tierney
Ms Neelam Bakshi
The Hon Lady Wise
The Hon Lord Minginish
Sheriff Principal Pyle
Sheriff O'Grady
Sheriff Mackie
Mr Alistair Morris
- Apologies: Mr James McNeill QC
- In attendance: Mr Michael Garden, Chief Executive
Miss Kerry Love, Secretary to the Board and Court
Appointments Manager
Mr John Wallace, Tribunal Appointments and
Governance Manager
Miss Rachel Craig, Administrator (Observing)

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 Dr Ewart welcomed the Board Members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Mr James McNeill QC.

1.2 For the minutes Dr Ewart clarified that Sheriff Mackie was present purely as a selection panel member of the Sheriff Fort William and Oban exercise, to participate in the Decision Meeting, by virtue of the Judiciary and Courts (Scotland) Act 2008, Schedule 1, para 6(7). Having not been involved in the exercise, Sheriff O'Grady took no part in the decision.

2. Minutes of the 16th January 2017 Board Meeting

2.1 The minutes of the Board Meeting were approved by the Board.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

3.1 There were no matters arising.

4. Chairing Member and Chief Executive Updates

4.1 Dr Ewart provided the Board with feedback from a meeting he, Mr James McNeill QC and Mr Garden attended with the Lord President, the Lord Justice Clerk and Mr Steve Humphreys, Director of the Judicial Office.

4.2 For the minutes, Dr Ewart confirmed that the Board had taken the decision on who to recommend as President of the First-Tier Tribunal, Tax Chamber, via email correspondence.

4.3 Mr Garden provided the Board with the following updates:

- The advert for the First-Tier Tribunal for Scotland, Housing and Property Chamber exercise closed on 15th February 2017, and a good number of applications were received. The Benchmarking Meeting will take place on Friday 3rd March 2017. Mr Garden noted the excellent contribution that Miss Meikle, Appointments Team Leader, had given to the success of the exercise to date.
- Mr Garden provided feedback from a recent Tripartite meeting he and Ms Love had attended with representatives from the Scottish Government and the Judicial Office for Scotland.
- Mr Garden provided feedback from a recent Justice Leaders Network meeting he had attended.

5. Sheriff Fort William and Oban Decision Meeting (JABS 2017 04)

5.1 The Board considered the interview panel's report, in compliance with the Judiciary and Courts (Scotland) Act 2008, with regard to the selection for recommendation of suitable applicants for the office of Sheriff. The Board agreed the two applicants to be recommended to the First Minister.

Action point: Secretariat to inform applicants of the outcome and forward the recommendations to the Scottish Government.

6. 2017 Outreach Events (JABS 2017 06)

6.1 The Board discussed its outreach programme for 2017. It agreed to run bespoke events for all branches of the legal profession, and generic events focussed on the application process and the various roles the Board recruits to. It will invite existing judicial office holders to present their experience of the role. Lady Wise informed the Board that the Lord President is considering running outreach events for the office of Senator. She will feed back to the Board on his plans. Thereafter the Secretariat will begin planning the Board's events.

7. 2017 Board Workshop (JABS 2017 07)

7.1 The Board agreed items for discussion and timings for the forthcoming Board Workshop.

Action point: Ms Love to finalise the agenda and prepare the papers.

8. Monthly Budget Report (JABS 2017 08)

8.1 The Board noted its financial position as of 31st January 2017.

9. Any other business

Farewell Sheriff Mackie

9.1 Dr Ewart noted that Sheriff Mackie's term of office had now concluded. He said that it had been an enormous pleasure to work with him for the last four years. Sheriff Mackie's contribution to the success of the Sheriff and Summary Sheriff exercises has been enormous, particularly the production of the legal case studies. Dr Ewart's thanks for all of his work was roundly endorsed by all present.

Meeting closed at 12:40pm.