

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday 15 June 2020, video / teleconference**

**Present**

Mrs Nicola Gordon, Chairing Member

Mrs Alison Mitchell

Ms Neelam Bakshi

Sheriff Michael O'Grady, QC

Mrs Liz Burnley, CBE

Ms Morag Ross, QC

Mrs Deirdre Fulton

Professor Stephen Tierney

The Hon. Lord Minginish, QC

Ms Eilidh Wiseman

**Apologies**

Sheriff Principal Marysia Lewis

The Hon. Lady Wise, QC

**Business Management Unit in Attendance**

Angela Simpson, Interim Chief Executive (ICE)

Board Secretary

Appointments Administrator

**1. Welcome & Apologies / Declarations of Interest**

The Chairing Member (the Chair) welcomed all attendees to the meeting with everybody attending remotely. There was a standard declaration of interest from Ms Bakshi in relation to the Social Security Tribunals.

**2. Consent Agenda Items**

The Minutes of the previous meeting and the Board Action Tracker were covered under the consent agenda.

**2.1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were approved by the Board.

**2.2 Board Action Tracker**

The Board Action Tracker was covered under the consent agenda and approved by the Board.

**3. General Summary – Updates**

**3.1 Chairing Member**

**3.1.1** The Chair gave an oral update to the Board:

- The Chair and the Interim CE met with the Lord President on Thursday 28 May for their regular meeting.
- The Chair held a courtesy meeting with Adrian Cottam, the President of the Summary Sheriff's Association to acknowledge the letter he recently sent on behalf of the Association. It was agreed that the JABS Board will make contact again once the review of the 2020 Shrieval recruitment has taken place.
- The Chair is serving as a member of the commission to recruit a new UK Supreme Court Justice with knowledge of the practice of law in Northern Ireland.

## **3.2 ICE Report**

3.2.1 The Interim CE provided a written update in advance of the meeting. There was a short discussion around contingency planning and data protection protocols.

## **4. Appointment Round Updates**

### **4.1 FTT-SSC Recommendations**

4.1.1 Ms Bakshi recused herself for item 5.1.

4.1.2 The Board discussed the current FTT-SSC recruitment exercise. It was highlighted that a number of applicants did not meet the eligibility criteria for the role of legal member and had been contacted to inform them of this.

4.1.3 The Chair recused herself for the discussion of one applicant.

4.1.4 The Board considered the report and agreed to recommend:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Number recommended to Board</b>
Legal Member	39
Ordinary Member (Medical Experience)	58
Ordinary Member (Disability Experience)	66
Total number for recommendation	163

4.1.5 The Board supported a phased approach to sending the recommendations to the Scottish Government.

## **5. Quality Assurance**

### **5.1 Assessment of Legal Competence update**

5.2 The Judicial and Legal members met on Tuesday 2 June to discuss the assessment of legal competence. Lord Minginish noted that a draft had been circulated to the Judicial and Legal Members of the Board and the final version will

be circulated for the July meeting. The Board agreed that consideration should be given to the areas raised by the Lord President during his visit in November 2019. It was agreed that this paper will be discussed at the July 2020 meeting.

[Board Action \(1\): Lord Minginsh to draft a recommendation paper for the board for decision at the July Board Meeting.](#)

## **6. Any Other Business**

6.1 Lady Wise has been appointed to the JABS Board for a further three years.

6.2 Sheriff David Young will officially join the JABS Board in August 2020. The induction processes has begun and Sheriff Young will observe both a Sheriff and Summary Sheriff interview. Sheriff Young will also join the Board meeting in July as an observer.

[BMU Action \(1\): BMU to add Sheriff Young to the distribution list.](#)

## **7. Meeting closed at 11:30.**