



BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY 16th JANUARY 2017 at 10:00AM

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
Mr James McNeill QC
Mr Alistair Morris

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

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 Dr Ewart welcomed the Board Members to the meeting. Dr Ewart welcomed Sheriff O'Grady and Mr John Wallace to their first Board Meeting.

2. Minutes of the 12th December 2016 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 informed the Board that Sheriff Principal Lewis had replaced Lady Stacey on the Diversity Steering Group. The Secretariat is trawling for a date for the next meeting now that Lady Wise has taken on the role of Chair.

4.2 Mr Garden provided the Board with the following updates:

- The Summary Sheriff appointments have now been announced.
- Recommendations for the current Senator exercise to be discussed later in the agenda.
- The mock interview for the current Sheriff exercise will take place on 17 Jan, with interviews on Thursday 19 and Friday 20 Jan.
- References have been requested and consultation is underway for the President of the First-Tier Tribunal, Tax Chamber appointment round. The mock interview is scheduled for 30th January 2017 with interviews on 7th February 2017.
- An update on the PRS/LA exercise will be provided at agenda item 6.

4.3 Mrs Mitchell informed the Board that the advert to recruit a new Chair of the Board had now closed. Applications will be sifted at the end of January 2017, and interviews are scheduled for end of February 2017.

5. Senator Appointment Round 2016-17: Decision Meeting (JABS 2017 01)

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 Senator. The Board agreed the two applicants to be recommended to the First Minister.

Action point: Secretariat to forward the recommendations to the Scottish Government.

6. PRS/LA Tribunal Exercise – Verbal Update

6.1 Professor Stephen Tierney, Chair of the exercise, provided the Board with an update from the Pre-Appointment Planning Meeting that took place on Thursday 12th January 2017. On present plans the adverts will launch on Wednesday 25th January 2017.

7. Monthly Budget Report (JABS 2017 02)

7.1 The Board noted its financial position as of 31st December 2016.

8. SG Consultation on a Draft Gender Representation on Public Bodies (Scotland Bill) – Verbal Discussion

8.1 The Board considered the consultation and agreed its response.

Action point: Mr Wallace to draft a response and send it to Dr Ewart to sign off.

9. Any other business

Letter from the President of the Society of Solicitor Advocates

9.1 The Board considered a request from the President of the Society of Solicitor Advocates to meet to discuss areas of mutual interest. The Board agreed that Dr Ewart and Mr James McNeill should meet with the President.

Action point: Secretariat to respond to the request and identify a suitable date to meet.

10 Summary Sheriff 2016: Correspondence from the Dean of the Faculty (JABS 2017 03)

10.1 The Board noted the correspondence between the Dean of the Faculty, the Lord President and Mr Michael Matheson MSP, regarding the restriction on other roles, for those taking up part-time salaried Summary Sheriff appointments.

Meeting closed at 11:15am.