



Judicial Appointments Board  
for Scotland

## **BOARD MEETING**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON**

**MONDAY 20TH JUNE 2016 at 10:00AM**

**THISTLE HOUSE, 91 HAYMARKET TERRACE, EDINBURGH**

- Present: Sir Muir Russell, Chairing Member  
Dr Michael Ewart  
Mrs Alison Mitchell  
Professor Stephen Tierney  
Ms Neelam Bakshi  
Mr James McNeill QC  
Mr Alistair Morris
- In attendance: Mr Michael Garden, Chief Executive  
Miss Kerry Love, Secretary to the Board  
Mrs Dorothy Smith, Policy Officer  
Mr Michael Johns-Perring, Appointments Team Leader
- Apologies: Mrs Deirdre Fulton  
The Hon Lady Wise  
The Hon Lord Minginish  
Sheriff Principal Pyle  
Sheriff Mackie

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

1.1 The Chairing Member welcomed the Board Members to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Mrs Fulton, Lady Wise, Lord Minginish, Sheriff Principal Pyle and Sheriff Mackie.

### **2. Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 Board Meeting**

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

### **3. Matters arising from the minutes**

3.1 The Board was informed that its 2015-16 Annual Report would be laid before the Scottish Parliament later in the week. The Board thanked Mrs Fulton, formally, for her input into the presentation of statistics in the report.

3.2 Members who attended the recent Summary Sheriff outreach events provided feedback to the Board and suggested some refinements for future events. The Board agreed to make a recording of some of the information that is included at outreach events to put on the website rather than have it all read out at events. Attendees were invited to complete evaluations following the events. Mrs Smith will analyse the results and report back to the Board at the next Board Meeting.

**Action: Secretariat to organise a recording of relevant information included at outreach events to be put on the Board's website. Mrs Smith to prepare a paper for the next Board.**

#### **4. Chairing Member, Chief Executive and Other Updates**

4.1 The Chairing Member was pleased to inform the Board that Mr McNeill had accepted an offer of a second term on the Board. His appointment is extended for a further two years to the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

4.2 Mr Garden provided the Board with the following updates:

- Interviews for the Sheriff Principal vacancy in Glasgow and Strathkelvin would take place on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016.
- Interviews for the Sheriff vacancy in Aberdeen would take place on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016. The Board would like to thank Sheriff Mackie formally for producing the case studies.
- Summary Sheriff 2016 appointment round had launched on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016, with a closing date of 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016.
- Timetabling options for an exercise to recruit a Chamber President of the Scottish Tax Tribunal would be discussed under any other business.
- He had a positive meeting with representatives from the Scottish Young Lawyers Association (SYLA) and Women in Law Scotland (WiLS). Both groups are interested in JABS representation at future events.
- He provided feedback from a Tribunal Forum Meeting he attended at Parliament House on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016.
- He provided feedback from a recent meeting of the Law Society's Conference Group and follow-up actions.

4.3 Mrs Mitchell provided a progress update on the exercise to identify a new Chairing Member of JABS.

4.4 Mr McNeill provided feedback from a seminar he attended on behalf of the Board, hosted by Professor Robert Hazell, on Judicial Leadership in an Age of Austerity.

#### **5. Business Plan 2016-17 (JABS 2016 28)**

5.1 The Board approved the 2016-17 Business Plan, subject to some minor amendments. The final version of the Plan would be published on the Board's website.

**Action point: Mrs Smith to make the necessary amendments and arrange for the report to be published on the website.**

## **6. Assistant Code of Conduct (JABS 2016 29)**

6.1 The Board considered a draft code of conduct for its Assistants. After detailed discussion, it suggested some further refinements to the code and asked the Secretariat to recirculate an updated version to the Board for agreement before sharing it with Assistants.

**Action point: Mr Johns-Perring to make the agreed amendments and recirculate to the Board for approval.**

## **7. Visit to the Judicial Institute – Feedback from Attendees**

7.1 The Members who attended the recent visit to the Judicial Institute provided feedback to the Board on what was a very constructive visit.

## **8. Any other Business**

8.1 The Board agreed to share relevant Board papers and minutes with Board Assistants to keep them updated on the work of the Board. The Board Secretary will agree with the Chairing Member which papers should be shared when he signs off the agenda and papers for each meeting.

8.2 The Board agreed that it would not sponsor the summer event of the Trainee and Newly Qualified Society Scotland (TANQ). It also agreed not to attend an SYLA event on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The Board agreed to undertake more outreach events in advance of the PRS/Lettings exercise.

**Action: Mrs Smith to follow up regarding outreach.**

9.1 The Board agreed a draft timetable for the recruitment of the Chamber President of the Scottish Tax Tribunal exercise.

**Action: Mrs Smith to finalise the Scottish Tax tribunal recruitment exercise timetable.**

## **10. Minutes of the DSG Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016 (JABS 2016 31)**

10.1 The Board noted the minutes of the meeting.

The meeting closed at 12:00