



BOARD MEETING

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 21st MARCH 2016 at 10:00 AM**

THISTLE HOUSE, 91 HAYMARKET TERRACE, EDINBURGH

- Present: Sir Muir Russell, Chairing Member
Dr Michael Ewart
Mrs Alison Mitchell
Mrs Deirdre Fulton
Professor Stephen Tierney
Ms Neelam Bakshi
The Rt Hon Lady Dorrian
Sheriff Principal Pyle
Sheriff Mackie
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
- Apologies: The Hon Lord Minginish
Mr Michael Johns-Perring, Appointments Team Leader

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 The Chairing Member welcomed the Board Members to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Lord Minginish.

2. Minutes of the 15th February 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 that would not be covered elsewhere in the agenda.

4. Chairing Member, Chief Executive and Other Updates

4.1 Dr Ewart and Mr Morris provided feedback from the presentation they gave, about the work of the Board, to the Society of Solicitors in the Supreme Courts in Scotland, at their Spring meeting on 1st March 2016.

4.2 The Chairing Member provided feedback from the introductory meeting he and the Chief Executive attended with the new Lord President, on 10th April 2016. The full Board look forward to meeting with Lord Carloway on the 18th April 2016.

4.3 The Chief Executive gave a progress update on tribunal appointments. A framework for the tribunal's process had been agreed with Lady Smith. Discussions were on-going regarding the timings of the first devolved and reserved tribunal appointment rounds.

4.4 The Chief Executive provided the Board with an overview of the recent introductory meeting with the three new Lay Assistants. The feedback from the event had been very positive.

5. Senator 2016 Appointment Round: Board Decision Meeting (JABS 2016 11)

5.1 The Board considered the selection panel 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.

5.2 The Board agreed the applicants to be recommended to the First Minister, noting that the number of vacancies had increased from three to five in the months that followed the launch of the appointment round.

5.3 The Board will inform all applicants who were interviewed of the outcome of the process once the Royal Warrant has been received. The Board agreed the feedback process and the wording of the outcome letters.

Action point: Secretariat to prepare a draft recommendation report for the First Minister.

6. Judicial Institute Visit Proposal (JABS 2016 12)

6.1 The Board discussed and agreed the proposal to visit the Judicial Institute on 2nd June 2016. Mrs Smith will trawl member's availability.

Action point: Mrs Smith to trawl Members for availability for a visit to the Judicial Institute on 2nd June 2016.

7. Any other business

7.1 The Chief Executive provided the Board with an update on the appointment rounds that may take place during 2016. A further update will be provided when firmer information is available.

7.2 Dr Ewart informed the Board that the advert for the exercise to replace the Charing Member would launch soon, and on present plans the interviews would take place on 31st May 2016.

The meeting closed at 13.00