

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING 25 APRIL 2018

Board: Sir David Bean, Chair
Professor Nicholas Hopkins, Commissioner for Property, Family and Trust Law
Stephen Lewis, Commissioner for Commercial and Common Law
Professor David Ormerod QC, Commissioner for Criminal Law
Nicholas Paines QC, Commissioner for Public and Welsh Law
Phil Golding, Chief Executive
Bronwen Maddox, Non-Executive Board Member
Sir David Bell, Non-Executive Board Member

Attendees: Gulzar Gill
Laura Burgoyne
Henni Ouahes
David Connolly

Apologies: Matthew Jolley
Jessica de Mounteney

Item 1: Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of 28 March 2018

1.1 The minutes were approved.

Item 2: Matters Arising

1.2 The “Role of the Commissioner” document was approved.

1.3 The Chair updated the Board following his meeting with CLAC and the Welsh Advisory Committee. The Board also briefly discussed the Thomas Commission review of Justice in Wales and whether the Law Commission might provide a submission.

Item 3: Board Report and Forward Look

1.4 The Board discussed forthcoming peer review dates.

1.5 Commissioners provided updates on each of their projects. SL said that the Law Commission had provided comments on HMT’s proposed response to the Goods Mortgages consultation and were now awaiting the final response following write round. Good progress had also been made on the electronic signatures and smart contracts projects.

1.6 On a potential Arbitration project, the Chair agreed to send a letter to Lord Keen.

- 1.7 DO informed the Board that successful meetings on POD had been held with Government stakeholders. On the Sentencing Code project, the Children and Young Persons consultation was due to close shortly and positive meetings had been held with stakeholders. Additionally, work on the Offensive Online Communications project was now underway.
- 1.8 The Board discussed whether the Making Land Work Bill was likely to progress. NH noted that he had previously said it would be very difficult to produce a Bill to introduce this session, if that required a Bill to be ready for November. Resource will be dedicated to the project over the summer and drafting capacity will be checked with Parliamentary Counsel. In terms of the Residential Leasehold project, the commonhold call for evidence had now closed with 137 responses.
- 1.9 NP informed the Board that a draft consultation paper on the Immigration Rules project was due to be circulated to Commissioners shortly. In addition, the consultation period for the Welsh Planning project was due to close shortly. Finally, work on the Employment Jurisdictions project was now underway.
- 1.10 PG provided an update on the recent accommodation changes. Overall, the move had gone well although a few small snagging issues remained. These are in the process of being resolved.

Item 4: Tailored Review

- 1.11 PG provided an update on the upcoming Tailored Review of the Law Commission. He confirmed that the review will be light touch but will still ask the existential questions required of all Tailored Reviews. The terms of reference for the review have now been agreed and the review team are due to start contacting stakeholders.

Item 5: Implementation of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

- 1.12 PG presented the Law Commission's guidance on GDPR (based on the ICO guidance) to the Board. The guidance outlined how the Commission and its staff would comply with the regulation. The Board approved the document.

Item 6: Initial discussion on an All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on law reform

- 1.13 PG raised the question of whether or not the Law Commission should consider setting up an APPG on law reform. The Board asked PG to undertake some further research into this, specifically looking at the purpose of the APPG, potential interest in the group and whether or not law reform would be too wide a topic to realistically bring any direct benefits to the Law Commission.

Item 7: People Survey Action Plan

- 1.14 PG shared a draft version of the People Survey action plan. The action plan focusses on the following areas – My Team, My Manager and Inclusion and Diversity. The People Survey action group held a number of focus groups and used the ideas from these sessions to inform the action plan. The Board were content with the action plan.

Item 8: AOB

- 1.15 No items were raised under AOB.

