

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING 25 NOVEMBER 2020

Board: Sir Nicholas Green, Chair
Professor Nicholas Hopkins, Commissioner for Property, Family and Trust Law
Professor Sarah Green, Commissioner for Commercial and Common Law
Professor Penney Lewis, Commissioner for Criminal Law
Nicholas Paines QC, Commissioner for Public and Welsh Law
Phil Golding, Chief Executive
Matthew Jolley, Head of Legal Services
Manesh Mistry, Head of Corporate Services
Joshua Rozenberg QC, Non-Executive Board Member
Baroness Deech, Non-Executive Board Member
Bronwen Maddox, Non-Executive Board Member

Attendees: Douglas Hall
Laura Burgoyne
Henni Ouahes
David Connolly
Vindelyn Smith-Hillman (Item 5 only)
Sade King (Item 5 only)

Apologies: None

Item 1: Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of 28 October 2020

1.1 The minutes were approved.

Item 2: Matters Arising

1.2 COVID update. PG said the Commission would look into a more blended approach on how we work in the office post COVID-19. Much of this will depend on how our stakeholders intend to move forward and if their preference is to engage in person or work more remotely. The Board agreed the Commission will need to stay close to Whitehall in order to carry out its functions effectively.

Item 3: 14th Programme

1.3 The Board was informed letters for key stakeholders were almost finalised and due to be circulated early next week. The aim is to book meetings in with key stakeholders for January 2020. A high-level script has been put together to ensure consistent messages are relayed to all stakeholders. It's important that the Commission achieves the right impact for each individual meeting.

Item 4: All Staff Event

- 1.4 The Board was informed the Commission's All Staff Event is being held via MS Teams due to COVID-19. The event is being held on the 14th December and will include 5 breakout sessions covering, simplification, environment, emerging tech, resilience and Brexit. The themes are linked to the 14th Programme. Talks on diversity and inclusion and wellbeing will also take place. It was agreed that invites would be sent to the Non-Executive Board Members so they are free to join should they wish to. The Board expressed their full support for the event.

Item 5: Diversity Action Plan

- 1.5 The Board was informed of the ongoing work the Commission has undertaken for diversity and inclusion, such as the Commissioner diversity scheme, the outreach work for research assistants, awareness-raising across the Commission, as well as a piece of work on equality impact assessments.
- 1.6 The Board were informed that the Commission have been working with two initiatives: Bridging the Bar and the Sutton Trust. Both support those with disabilities, BAME and those from disadvantaged backgrounds who are looking to forge careers within law. The Commission expressed their intention to establish formal links with both initiatives. PG said it may be necessary to identify some permanent resource to support this work and that there may be relatively modest cost. The Board agreed funds should be found, if possible.
- 1.7 The Board are keen to draw this work together by creating a diversity and inclusion strategy, outlining the practical steps the Commission is taking, or would like to take in the future.

Item 6: SMT Decisions

- 1.8 The Board noted SMT decisions made since the last Board meeting.

Item 7: Board Report

- 1.9 Commissioners highlighted updates and issues relevant to their individual projects.

Item 7: AOB

- 1.10 No items were raised under AOB.