

**The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom
Management Board**

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2012

Attending: Jenny Rowe (Chair)

William Arnold
Louise di Mambro
Olufemi Oguntunde
Martin Thompson
Ben Wilson
Chris Maile
Philip Robinson (Non-Executive Director)
Alex Jablonowski (Non-Executive Director)

Paul Brigland (Secretary)

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 No apologies for absence were received.

2. Approval of minutes of the Management Board Meeting of 26 November 2012

2.1 The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

3.1 The second bullet point – the report into lift faults had been received, but had not been helpful and any further report would involve additional expenditure – it was agreed to circulate the report for possible discussion at a future meeting.

3.2 The Board noted that the Learning & Development policy had been amended as agreed.

4. Scorecard report

- 4.1 The Board noted the monthly Scorecard report (paper MB12/68). It was noted that the incorrect PTA statistics shown on the November scorecard had been corrected.
- 4.2 The board noted that 1 FOI request (for court transcripts and recordings) had been referred to the ICO.

5. Risk Register

- 5.1 As agreed at the November meeting, all Board members had been asked to consider any additional risks that should be added to the Register. The following were discussed

- Wales – the growing body of legislation passed by the Welsh Assembly and the need for a Welsh Justice
- Relations with the new ministerial team at MoJ

- 5.2 The Board considered paper MB12/69, and noted the following points:-

Risk 1 - the Board agreed that this risk could be removed.

Risk 2 - no update but JR was due to visit Scotland in the New Year.

Risk 4 - the report was expected imminently.

Risk 5 - the Board agreed to keep this on the Register but noted that it would probably not be an issue this year.

Risk 7 - a meeting with the MoJ was scheduled for January and an update would be provided at the January meeting.

Risk 8 - MT had now spoken to the RCJ, but we were waiting for the matter to be considered at a RCJ internal meeting. It would not now be possible to carry out the exercise planned for 7 January 2013, but the MoJ part of the test would go ahead. The Board noted that this risk could not be downgraded until the RCJ test had been carried out.

Risk 10 - the Board noted that the upgrade of the Security Access system was proceeding but would need adding to this risk.

Risk 11 - The Board noted that phase 2 of the programme had commenced.

Risk 12 - The Board noted the coverage in The Guardian on 17 December.

Risk 15 – A seminar had been attended by JR, WA and LdiM along with Justice Adrian Saunders from the Caribbean Court of Justice and representatives from some Crown Dependencies.

6. Finance and fees

6.1 The Board considered paper MB12/70.

6.2 The Board noted that

- the underspend was currently as expected.
- Some areas of expenditure had been brought forward.

6.3 It was planned to carry forward £121k to the next financial year.

6.4 It was noted that there had been a reduction in IT costs. It was agreed that the financial aspect of the business case for the ICT Project should be re-examined and considered by the next IT Project Board.

6.5 An audit was due to commence on the 7 January 2013.

7. Communications update

7.1 The Board noted paper MB12/71.

7.2 There had been media coverage of cases involving devolution issues for both Wales and Scotland.

7.3 Lord Sumption's speech on judicial diversity had received coverage.

7.4 The number of visitors for November was down on the same time last year, but the Court had received a large number of visits from school and college groups, including two from Scotland.

7.5 The Board noted the quarterly figures for visitors to the websites, including spikes on days where significant judgments had been delivered.

8. Human resources

8.1 The Board noted the following points

- There was one new vacancy for a member of the Front of House Team. The closing date for applications had been on the 14 December and a sift would be held later that day. Interviews were planned for January with an appointment expected in February. Temporary cover had been arranged during the interim.
- The Cost Clerk role had been evaluated and upgraded. The post had been advertised.
- Civil Service reform – the government want to be seen to be taking action on this issue. The UKSC will wait to see what steps the MoJ will take and then re-act accordingly. The Board considered if there was a need to maintain parity between UKSC and MoJ salary scales. CM reported that a new MoJ competency framework was due in April.

9. Parliamentary Questions and FOI

9.1 PB reported that 2 FOI requests had been received in November.. No PQs had been tabled.

10. Case update

10.1 The Board noted that the list for the next term should be settled by the end of the day (18 December). LdiM reported that the list was very full with a significant number of Scottish cases.

11. Staff Engagement

11.1 The Board noted the contents of paper MB12/72.

- 11.2 CM said that the results had been encouraging and did not contain many surprises. The response to most issues was as expected. The Board noted.
- 11.3 It was agreed that individual responses would not be published as in some cases the source was potentially identifiable.
- 11.4 Teamwork was one area that would require attention, but the board noted that, owing to the small number of staff, any negative comments could appear disproportionate
- 11.5 The Board also discussed the issues of career path planning, succession planning and talent management and agreed that these should be considered more fully in the new year by the Results into Action Group.
- 11.6 It was agreed to publish the summary of the results in the new year once everyone had returned from annual leave.

12. AOB

- 12.2 The Board noted that Sir Robert Worcester had contacted JR to discuss the UKSC involvement in events to mark the 800th Anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta in 2015. The Telegraph would be producing an article in 2013 which would mention UKSC involvement.

These minutes were approved by the Management Board on 28 January 2013.

UKSC
December 2012