

**NORTHERN IRELAND JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS  
COMMISSION**

**BUSINESS PLAN 2006/07**

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## **BACKGROUND**

### **The Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission**

The Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission (the Commission) was established on 15 June 2005 under the Justice (Northern Ireland) Acts 2002 and 2004. This legislation implements the recommendations of the Northern Ireland Criminal Justice Review.

The Commission is an independent Non-Departmental Public Body comprising 13 members appointed by the Lord Chancellor and drawn from the judiciary, the legal profession and members of the public who are not qualified lawyers. The Chairman is the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, Sir Brian Kerr.

The Commission is supported by a secretariat of 16 staff, headed up by Alan Hunter (Appendix D)

## **Membership of the Commission**

Chairman: The Right Honourable Sir Brian Kerr, Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland.

Members: Mrs Fiona Bagnall, Presiding Resident Magistrate  
Mrs Sinead Burns, Lay Magistrate  
The Right Honourable Lord Justice Campbell, Lord Justice of Appeal  
Mr Peter Cush, Barrister  
Mr John Gordon, Solicitor  
Dame Joan Harbison CBE DBE, Lay Member  
Mrs Ruth Laird, Lay Member  
Her Honour Judge Loughran, County Court Judge  
Mr Harry McConnell OBE, Lay Member  
Professor John Morison, Lay Member  
Mr Raymond Mullan OBE, Lay Member  
The Honourable Mr Justice Weatherup, High Court Judge

## **The Commission's roles and responsibilities**

The Commission has five key roles:

1. To conduct the appointments process and make recommendations to the Lord Chancellor in respect of all listed judicial appointments up to and including High Court Judge.
2. To recommend candidates solely on the basis of merit.
3. To engage in a programme of action to secure, so far as it is reasonably practicable to do so, that appointments to listed judicial offices are such that those holding such offices are reflective of the community in Northern Ireland.
4. To engage in a programme of action to secure, so far as it is reasonably practicable to do so, that a range of persons reflective of the community in Northern Ireland is available for consideration by the Commission whenever it is required to select a person to be appointed, or recommended for appointment, to a listed judicial office.
5. To publish an annual report setting out the activities and accounts for the past year.

## **Key Focus**

The Commission was established on 15 June 2005. Our key objective, for this our second year, shall be to meet the very demanding programme of appointments and re-appointments (schedules attached at Appendix B + C) and the associated programme of action for each. During this time our objective is also to carry out an extensive review of our appointment policies and procedures and to consult upon our findings. We also look forward this year to consulting upon and publishing our first Corporate Plan, which sets out our objectives and goals for the next 3 years and the principles which will inform our work over this period. Our first Annual Report, setting out our achievements and performance during our first year to March 2006, shall also be published. Strong corporate governance and an ability to demonstrate effectiveness and value for money in our achievements shall be a focus that impacts on all the work we do.

## **Contact details**

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## **OBJECTIVES**

This business plan sets out below the Commission's objectives, under the three perspectives of business results, interested parties and internal issues, and outlines the timetable they shall be delivered within.

### **Business Results**

1. To make recommendations to the Lord Chancellor for appointments to listed judicial offices in accordance with Appendix B.
2. To make recommendations to the Lord Chancellor for re-appointments to listed judicial offices in accordance with Appendix C.
3. Develop and agree a programme of action to facilitate each of the appointments and re-appointments, and to deliver the programme over the period.
4. By 31 March 2007 to have prepared material for inclusion in the Commission's 2006/2007 Annual Report.
5. To complete the equity monitoring of the existing judiciary and carry out equity monitoring of applicants for schemes.
6. To develop and implement a research programme relating to the judiciary, specifically relating to gender issues.

### **Interested Parties**

7. By 31 October 2006 the Commission shall have consulted upon its Corporate Plan for publication by 31 January 2007.
8. To have available for publication its 2005/06 Annual Report within 2 months of audit by National Audit Office.
9. To have in place a publication scheme within 1 month of approval by the Information Commissioner's office.
10. By December 2006 to have in place effective SLAs with the sponsor departments.



## **Internal**

11. By 31 March 2007 to secure from the NICtS the required level of resources to deliver the Commissions 2007/08 objectives.
12. To maintain internal financial and stewardship controls within the Commission, which meet central government guidelines.
13. To appoint a Chief Executive to the Commission within the agreed timetable.
14. To demonstrate strong corporate governance at all times.
15. To benchmark the Commission's corporate services as per the Internal Audit Service Audit Plan to ensure value for money.
16. To ensure that staff are equipped to support the Commission by reviewing staffing resources and turnover.
17. To recruit two Grade 7 posts.

## Appendix A

**NORTHERN IRELAND JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION**

**Programme of Appointments 15 June 2005 onwards**

<b>Sponsor Department</b>	<b>Judicial Office</b>	<b>Number of Posts</b>	<b>Permanent or Renewable</b>	<b>Commencement of Scheme</b>
NICtS	Coroner	2	Permanent	October 2005 (completed)
NICtS	Deputy Social Security Commissioner for NI	1	Renewable	February 2006 (completed)
NICtS	Master (High Court)	1	Permanent	April 06 (completed)
NICtS (Pension Appeal Tribunal)	Legal Members	2	Renewable Fee paid	April 06 (completed)
NICtS (Pensions Appeals Tribunal)	Medical Members	2	Renewable Fee Paid	April 06 (completed)
DHSSPS (Mental Health Review Tribuna)	Medical Members	2 to 4	Renewable Fee paid	April 06 (completed)
NICtS	High Court Judge	2	Permanent	Early-Sept 2006 (completed)
DEL (Industrial Tribunals/Fair Employment Tribunal)	Full Time Chairman	4	Permanent	Mid-Sept 2006 (completed)
DFP (Valuation Appeals Tribunal)	President	1	Permanent	End -November 2006 (ongoing)

DFP (Valuation Appeals Tribunal)	Legal Chairman	30	Renewable Fee paid	End-November 2006 (ongoing)
DFP (Valuation Appeals Tribunal)	Valuation Members	30	Renewable Fee Paid	End-November 2006 (ongoing)
DFP (Valuation Appeals Tribunal)	Ordinary Members	30	Renewable Fee paid	End-November 2006 (ongoing)
NICtS	Master (High Court (EJO Taxing Office))	1	Full-time, permanent	Mid-Nov 2006 (ongoing)
NICtS	Deputy Resident Magistrate	6	Renewable Fee Paid	Timetabling to be considered at first plenary in 2007.
DARD Plant Varieties And Seeds Tribunal	Chairman	1	Renewable Fee Paid	Application to commence scheme considered at 5 July plenary-timetabling to be reviewed at first plenary in 2007
Dept of Education Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal	Chairman	2	Renewable Fee-paid	Confirmation from SENT that the DoE is content with the Tribunal's proposal to appoint an additional chairman received 28 November 2006. Timetabling to be considered at first plenary in 2007.
DEL Reserve Forces Reinstatement Committee	Member of the panel of chairmen	1	Renewable fee-paid	Formalisation of request from DEL received – letter dated 2 January 07.

HMT VAT and Duties Tribunal for NI (UK wide Tribunal – NI VAT and excise cases dealt with in Manchester).	Chairmen	2	Renewable fee-paid	Application to appoint 2 additional chairmen to deal with NI VAT and excise cases in Manchester – considered at plenary on 30 November - reconsidered when further information is available. Further info. circulated by e- mail 22 December.
DFP Lands Tribunal	Legal member	1	Type and number of appts to be confirmed by DFP	Application noted at Oct 2006 plenary - to be considered further when requirements confirmed by DFP
Charities Appeal Tribunal *	Legally Qualified Chairman	1		Commencement dependent on legislation
Charities Appeal Tribunal *	Legally qualified members	2		Commencement dependent on legislation
Charities Appeal Tribunal *	Lay Member	2		Commencement dependent on legislation
NICtS Pensions Appeal Tribunal	Medical Members	3		Awaiting submission of formal request from NICtS

\* Charities Tribunal – enabling legislation expected to be in place early 2007 –  
legislative timetable to be confirmed

At 25 January 2007

**PROGRAMME OF REAPPOINTMENTS  
15 June 2005 to 30 September 2007**

(Consideration of the renewal of fee-paid judicial appointments – during the period 15 June 2005 onwards )

<b>Sponsor Department</b>	<b>Judicial Office</b>	<b>Number of Posts</b>
NICtS	Deputy County Court Judge	1 Extension of appointment of Mr Aidan Canavan from 1 April 2006 - 31 March 2011 (completed)
DEL Industrial Tribunal	Chairmen	8 Completed February 06 Renewal of appointment of 7 chairmen from 1 April 2006 until 31 March 2011 & 1 chairman from 01 April 2006 until 8 February 2010

		(completed)
DHSSPS Mental Health Review Tribunal	Medical Members	2 expire Dec 06– reappointment report before AA&PC Sept and October plenary (completed)
DEL – Reserve Forces Reinstatement Committee	Chairman	1 expires Nov 06- reappointment report before A&APC Sept and Oct plenary (completed)
DSD Appeals Tribunal	Financial Members	4 expire Jan 07- work commenced with sponsor dept with a view to report being before A&APC Oct and Nov plenary
DSD Appeals Tribunal	Medical Members (Consultant)	1 expires Jan 07-work commenced with sponsor dept-A&APC Oct and Nov plenary
DSD	Medical Members	8

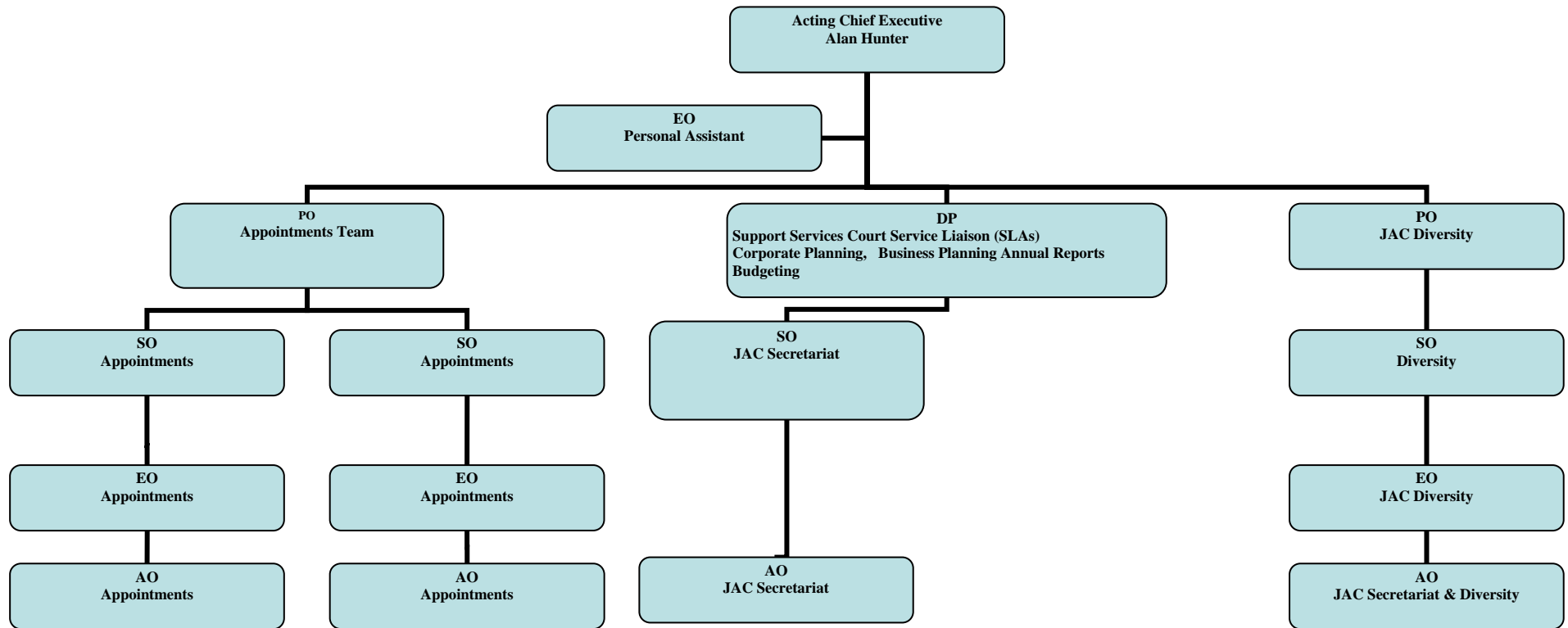


Appeals Tribunal	(General)	expire Jan 07- work commenced with sponsor dept-A&APC Oct and Nov plenary
DSD Appeals Tribunal	Legal Members	11 expire Jan 07-work commenced with sponsor dept-A&APC Oct and Nov plenary
DFP Lands Tribunal	President	1 expires March 07- reappointment report will be before A&APC Oct and Nov plenary
DEL IT/FET	Part-time chairman IT	1 expires 31 March 07 before A&APC Nov and Nov plenary.
NICtS	Deputy Resident Magistrate	5 expire May (1), June (1) and Sept 07 (3) - work will commence Jan 07
NICtS	Deputy County Court	3

	Judge	expire Sept 07(1) and Dec 07 (2)-work will commence March/June 07
DHSSPS Mental Health Review Tribunal	Legal Members	3 expire Dec 07-work will commence June 07
DHSSPS Mental Health Review Tribunal	Medical Member	1 expires Nov 07 - work will commence May 07
DEL IT/FET	P/T Legal Chairman	1 expires Dec 07- work will commence June 07
Pensions Appeal Tribunal	Legal Members	3 expire June 07- work will commence Jan 07
Pensions Appeal Tribunal	Medical Members	1 expire June 07- work will commence Jan 07
Pensions Appeal Tribunal	Forces Member	1 expires June 07 - work

		will commence Jan 07
VAT and Duties Tribunal (NI)	Vice-President	1 Expires 30 June 07 – work to commence Jan 07
Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal	Legal Chairmen	3 Awaiting confirmation from NICtS

Interim Staffing Structure



Under Review