

**Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on Thursday 4th March 2010,
Ground Floor Boardroom, Headline Building, Victoria Street, Belfast.**

Present: The Right Honourable Sir Declan Morgan, the Lord Chief
Justice of Northern Ireland (Chairman)
The Right Honourable Lord Justice Coghlin
Mr Peter Cush
Mr Donal Flanagan OBE
Mr John Gordon
District Judge (Magistrates' Court) Amanda Henderson
Mrs Ruth Laird
Her Honour Judge Loughran
Professor John Morison
Dr Raymond Mullan OBE
The Honourable Mr Justice Weatherup

In Attendance: Mr Edward Gorringe (Chief Executive)
Mrs Helen Anderson
Ms Adeline Frew
Mr Tim Horgan
Miss Catherine Woods

Apologies

Mrs Sinead Burns
Dr Nichola Rooney

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2010 were agreed by the Commissioners and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

2. There were no matters arising.

Outreach

3. The Commission considered Paper C/1/10; a considerable amount of work had been done with students and educational institutions, the Commission needed to focus on getting the Bar and Tribunals to engage and support the work of the Commission. A discussion followed on why various groups were reluctant to attend Outreach events and apply for competitions; how the Commission could address any misconceptions, and also revisit their own processes and procedures with a view to identifying any areas of a competition which may be causing potential candidates not to apply.
4. Outreach and the Competition Process would be revisited at the workshop day later in the month.

Conflict of Interest discussions with appointees

5. The Commission considered Paper C/2/10. The chairman outlined the current timing and method by which conflicts of Interest were considered with applicants to judicial office. The Commission discussed and agreed the contents of the paper detailing suggested changes to the current process.

Appointment of retired judiciary as deputies

6. The Commission considered Paper C/3/10 and the letter attached thereto from David Lavery (Director, Northern Ireland Court Service) asking for consideration of the appointment of retired judiciary as deputies. Potential scenarios in which the deputies would be used and frequency of use were discussed.
7. The Commission agreed, with some reservations, an initial 2 year period for the proposal subject to a review after 12 months. The NI Court Service is to be asked to maintain statistics regarding the use of such deputies and to make this information available to the Commission to facilitate the review.

To Note

Report to the Business Committee

8. The report which had been before the Business Committee on 28th January 2010 was considered and approved by the Commissioners.

NIJAC 2010-11 Bid for Resources

9. The Bid submitted to the Northern Ireland Court Service, presented to the Business Committee on 28th January 2010 was noted by the Commissioners. Negotiations surrounding the bid continue with the Northern Ireland Court Service.

Devolution Update

10. The update paper was noted by the Commissioners. The Chairman emphasised the importance of looking in detail at the new functions the Commission will be responsible for on devolution.

11. Discussions between OFMdFM and the Northern Ireland Court Service regarding the Commission continue.

Updates, Signed Minutes from Committees and Appointments and Reappointments Schedules

12. Duly noted by the Commissioners.

Any Other Business

13. No other business.

Signed

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The Right Honourable Sir Declan Morgan, the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, Chairman of the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission

Dated

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