

**Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on Thursday 24 June 2010, Ground
Floor Boardroom, Headline Building, Victoria Street, Belfast.**

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

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

Apologies

Mrs Ruth Laird

The Honourable Mr Justice Weatherup

Guest speaker – N.I. Judicial Appointments Ombudsman

1. The Chairman welcomed Mr Karamjit Singh CBE, the N.I. Judicial Appointments Ombudsman, on behalf of the Commission.
2. Mr Singh gave an informative talk on his background, his role as Ombudsman and how he sees the role of the Commission and challenges it may face.

Mr Singh left

Minutes of the Last Meeting

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd April 2010 were agreed by the Commissioners.

Matters Arising

4. The CCJ selection panel have elected not to use pieces of written work in the upcoming CCJ competition. The Selection Committee are using a selection centre where role-plays, case scenarios and interview would be used as a means of assessment. Professional actors will be employed for the selection event. All panel members will be trained in assessing selection centres. Potential difficulties were explored particularly the issue of fair assessment, difficulties in scoring on a like with like basis and the fact that some solicitors may not be able to submit work. Therefore, Commissioners decided that submitting two pieces of work was not a selection tool that would be considered for future competitions.

NICTS Evaluation of Part-time Salaried Judicial Working Arrangements at District Judge (Magistrates' Courts) Level

5. The Commissioners discussed paper C/8/10 and endorsed the recommendations and way forward. The NICTS evaluation report has been received and it shows a favourable outcome. A meeting with the Recorder will now be arranged.

Review of Completed Competitions

6. The Commissioners noted paper C/8/10 and its findings.

Risk Register

7. The Risk Register was considered and approved by the Commissioners.

Annual Report and Accounts 2009-10

8. The chairman of the Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC) confirmed that the Committee had reviewed and approved the release of the Accounts and Statement on Internal Control.
9. The Commissioners were updated by the chairman of the ARMC on the Annual Assurance 2009/10 presented to the ARMC earlier that day by Mr Derek Anderson, Head of Internal Audit, NI Courts and Tribunals Service. The ARMC had heard that the Annual Assurance 2009/10, which is based on the findings from internal audit reviews that had taken place during the year, was the cleanest Mr Anderson had seen in his 20 years.
10. The Annual Report and Accounts were approved for release to the NI Audit Office by the Commissioners.

To Note

Report to the Business Committee

11. The report which had been before the Business Committee on the 1st June 2010 was considered and approved by the Commissioners.

NIJAC, JAC (England and Wales) and JAB (Scotland) Research Reports

12. Paper C/10/10 and the Research Report were noted by the Commissioners.

Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity update

13. Update Paper C/12/10 was noted by the Commissioners.

Financial Update

Updates, Signed Minutes from Committees and Appointments and Reappointments Schedules

14. Duly noted by the Commissioners.

Mr John Gordon and Her Honour Judge Loughran left

Any Other Business

15. Mr Gorrington presented a briefing paper on the recent DDJ (MC) competition. The Commissioners discussed the briefing and agreed to recommend the contents of the paper as an option to the Lord Chancellor.

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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