

The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom Management Board

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2013

Attending: Jenny Rowe (Chair)

William Arnold

Chris Maile

Olufemi Oguntunde

Martin Thompson

Ben Wilson

Philip Robinson (Non-Executive Director)

Paul Brigland (Secretary)

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies were received from Louise di Mambro and Alex Jablonowski.

2. Approval of minutes of the Management Board Meeting of 29 April 2013

2.1 The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters arising from the last meeting not covered elsewhere on the agenda

3.1 MT reported that Westminster City Council (WCC) had granted the permit to allow a cherry picker to park on the pavement over the weekend of 1-2 June 2013. WCC have also started their public consultation on the issue of the disabled parking bay.

4. Scorecard Report

4.1 The Board considered paper MB13/31.

- 4.2 The Board noted that the scorecard covered the first month of the 2013-14 financial year, so the figures had been re-set accordingly.
- 4.3 The Board agreed that the format and contents of the Scorecard would be considered in depth at the Management Board workshop in July.

Action point: PB to circulate a list of items for consideration at the workshop in July

5. Risk Register

5.1 The Board considered paper MB13/32.

5.2 The Board noted the following points –

Risk 1 – there had been some coverage earlier in the month of the debate surrounding the UK’s relationship with the European Court of Human Rights.

Risk 3 – The Board noted that the annual on-line Information Assurance training exercise had been completed.

Risk 7 – the Government had circulated two papers. JR had received copies.

Risk 8 – it was agreed that this should stay on the Register until the 6 months bedding down period for the new lifts had been completed.

Risk 9 – this was being kept under review pending changes to Legal Aid.

Risk 12 – JCPC membership had been discussed in the Trinidad & Tobago Parliament.

Risk 13 – was a new risk that had been added following the March MB.

Risk 14 – information on the website had been updated to reflect changes made by the Scotland Act 2012.

6. Finance and fees

- 6.1 The Board considered paper MB13/33. The Board noted the following points –
- Spend in April had been as expected, with only a slight variance in the amount for Justices’ travel.
 - The budget profile has been completed and updated to reflect the expected pay increase – although the final figure had not yet been confirmed. Anticipated savings arising from the new contracts had also been factored in.
- 6.2 JR said that we could also finalise expenditure on Justices pay as it was now known what was happening with that.
- 6.3 The Board noted that some invoices from Eurest were still outstanding.
- 6.4 The contributions from the jurisdictions due in April had been received, although the contribution from MoJ had been delayed.
- 6.5 We had submitted our return to HMT for the SR and HMT were content with it. We still awaited confirmation from MoJ on their contributions.
- 6.6 CM said that MoJ were still in negotiation with the TU side on pay, but he expected an update in the following week.

7. Communications update

- 7.1 The Board noted paper MB13/34.
- 7.2 We had received some good feedback following the FT Magazine article and it had generated some additional visitors.
- 7.3 JCPC issues continued to attract coverage.
- 7.4 The Educational Visits film was the most viewed item on the UKSC YouTube channel.
- 7.5 The Times law supplement had covered the UKSC JA scheme.
- 7.6 There had been coverage of the proposed Register of Judges interests in Scotland and New Zealand

8. Human resources

8.1 The Board noted the following points

- The JA campaign had concluded and interviews with shortlisted candidates had been held over three days, including one via videolink. Offers had now been made to the successful candidates and the process was on track.
- There were currently no other vacancies, all posts being filled.
- One member of staff was on long term sick leave. In the table of sick absences covering government, the UKSC was at the bottom of the table with the lowest average figure of any department.
- Discussions over pay strategy were ongoing.
- The board noted paper MB13/35.

9. Parliamentary Questions and FOI

9.1 PB reported that 2 FOI requests had been received in April, and 1 request had been referred to the ICO. No PQs had been tabled.

10. Case update

10.1 This was deferred in the absence of LdiM, although JR reported that the grant rate was lower than usual, but was expected to rise.

11. UKSC Education and Outreach Policy

11.1 The Board noted paper MB13/36.

11.2 The Board noted that the UKSC had not ever had a dedicated Education Officer. The Education Outreach programme had started gradually but had now become a core part of our operation.

- 11.3 The main goal had been to attract groups from beyond London and the South East, which were less well represented. This was normally the result of the extra time and costs involved.
- 11.4 We had been successful in collaborating with the Parliamentary visits programme.
- 11.5 Figures showed that the number of visits by educational groups has increased and this trend was expected to continue.
- 11.6 BW said that there was still further work to be done to attract groups from beyond London and the SE. Similarly, we needed to encourage visits by universities beyond the Russell Group.
- 11.7 The Board also noted that the percentage of groups coming from state schools had increased.
- 11.8 PR said it was good that this data was being recorded and that we were able to demonstrate success in this area. He said it would be useful to know how many repeat visits we get.

Action point: BW to consider how we record repeat visits.

- 11.9 The Board agreed the policy and approach as set out in paper MB13/36, subject to amendments as discussed.

17. AOB

There were no points raised.

These minutes were approved by the Management Board on 24 June 2013.

UKSC
June 2013