



UKSC Board

Minutes of meeting held of 4th March 2025 at 2.00pm

Venue: Meeting Room 5, UKSC

Attendees: Iain Lanaghan - Non-Executive Director (Chair)
Julie Nerney - Non-Executive Director
Vicky Fox – Chief Executive Officer
Sam Clark – Director of Corporate Services and Change
Celia Cave –Registrar
Paul Strang – Finance Director

Apologies: Board Secretary

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Apologies

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Board.
2. Apologies were received from the Board Secretary.

Agenda Item 2: Declaration of Interests

3. No declarations were made.

Agenda Item 3: Minutes and Action Log

4. The minutes of the last meeting were discussed and agreed.

Agenda Item 4: Operational Overview and Performance

5. The CEO introduced this item and confirmed as we were in the final month of the financial year, the Court was on target to deliver its Business Plan commitments, with the potential for a small overspend. Morale in the Court was good, but there were some pressures being monitored.
6. The Board sought assurances on the progression of the Annual Report and Accounts. The Board was assured the Annual Report development was on target and was meeting the timetable agreed with the National Audit Office.

7. The Board discussed how AI was being used in the legal profession. It was noted that Regulators were starting to publish their positions, and they would be considered by the Court and where necessary issue guidance which set expectations on how use AI responsibly but without going into the regulator space. The administration would explore the small-scale use of AI to see if it could make us operational more efficient. Progress and developments would be shared with Board members as appropriate.
8. The Risk Register was discussed. The CEO outlined the process of risk management across the whole governance framework, including the Management Board.

Agenda Item 5: Strategic Priority Deep Dive. Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging.

9. The CEO introduced this item emphasising the Court and the executive's deep commitment to making a difference. It was noted that there were limitations on what the Court could do, which meant the priority was to choose activities which have an impact and make a difference. Work was underway to explore what other activities were taking place in this area, and which could be used to inform the next strategy.
10. The Board encouraged the Court to have the confidence to be brave and bold in this area as the Court was held in high regard and others would watch what it did.
11. The Board recognised all the work over the last year and stated the Court should be proud of the work done and the impact. It was recommended that more work be done to publicise when judges from other courts sit on the UKSC or JCPC.

Agenda Item 6: Spending Review

12. The CEO and Finance Director provided an overview of the work undertaken to prepare for the next phase of the Spending Review and the engagement with HM Treasury. Work was underway to provide more information to support the zero-based review and substantive bid for 2026-27 onwards.

Agenda Item 7: Business Plan direction for 2025-26

13. The Director of Corporate Services and Change introduced this subject. The Board discussed activities which would align to the 2025-26 budget and the overarching priorities.
14. Directionally the Board agreed the activities detailed were the right things to prioritise but there was a challenge to make sure that the activities were all achievable, especially in areas where resources were reduced and where the administration might need to pivot.

Agenda Item 8: Board and Committee updates

15. The Chair provided a summary of the last ARAC meeting highlighting it was a full meeting which discussed: The Court's Financial position; the Spending Review position; an update on Internal Audits conducted by the Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA) and External Audit by the National Audit Office.
16. The Director of Corporate Services provided a summary of the last Change Board, in particular: The handover to and upskilling of UKSC staff had been continuing and work had commenced on planning system maintenance and benefit realisation calculations.

Agenda Item 9: Board effectiveness review.

17. All Board members discussed the meeting, how effective it had been and whether it had made a positive difference to the work of the Court and executive

Date of next meeting – 24th June 2025.