

To:	Legal Services Board	
Date of Meeting:	30 January 2013	Item: Paper (13) 01

Title:	Appointment to the Legal Services Consumer Panel – recommendation to the Board	
Workstream(s):	N/A	
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Status:	Restricted	

Summary:
<p>This paper seeks the Board’s approval to the preferred candidate for the post of Legal Services Consumer Panel member following interviews held on 23 January 2013. Subject to the Board’s agreement, the Chairman will then request the approval of the Lord Chancellor as to the recommended appointee.</p> <p>The process was the subject of discussion at the Remuneration and Nomination Committee and the Minister was made aware of the plans to appoint a new member to replenish the membership in light of Elisabeth Davies’ confirmed appointment as Chair of the Consumer Panel.</p>

Recommendation(s):
The Board is invited to agree the recommendation to the Lord Chancellor as to the appointment of a new member to the Legal Services Consumer Panel.

Risks and mitigations
Financial: N/A
Legal: N/A
Reputational: N/A
Resource: N/A

Consultation	Yes	No	Who / why?
Board Members:	✓		The Board has been consulted about proposals in relation to appointment of a new Consumer Panel member. The Board Chairman has been advised in relation to the specific recommendations set out in this paper. The RNC approved the appointment process.
Consumer Panel:	✓		The Consumer Panel Chair has been involved in the process as a member of the appointing panel.
Others:	The process involved an independent assessor.		

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Fol)		
Para ref	Fol exemption and summary	Expires
Annex A	s40 – personal information.	N/A

LEGAL SERVICES BOARD

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Appointment to the Legal Services Consumer Panel – recommendation to the Board

Background / context

1. This paper invites the Board to seek the approval of the Lord Chancellor as to the recommendation of appointment of a new member of the Legal Services Consumer Panel (the Panel), following interviews held on 23 January 2013.
2. In discussions with the Board Chairman in summer 2012, the Panel Chair reflected considerably on the current skill mix of the Panel and how it works together, and also reviewed the findings of a skills audit that the Panel completed earlier in 2011. The Panel Chair identified a number of skills gaps. In order to start to address the skills gap, and to provide additional capacity to deliver the work programme, the Panel Chair recommended the recruitment of one additional Panel member. On this basis, the Remuneration and Nomination Committee (RNC) agreed at its meeting on 25 June 2012 to recommend to the Board that an additional member be appointed.
3. Board Members will recall that the Board was updated about proposals in relation to the Panel appointment at its meeting on 11 July 2012 (Paper (12) 55b refers). The Board agreed with the Committee's recommendation that a new member be appointed, on the basis that: (i) the Panel have been running with a vacancy as Elisabeth Davies's role as Panel member was not back filled following her appointment as interim Chair (then Chair), (ii) that the Panel Chair considered that there are skills gaps to be filled, and (iii) the Accounting Officer confirmed that resources would be available to add this eighth role to the Panel.
4. The Legal Services Act 2007, at section 8, outlines the statutory framework for Consumer Panel member appointments. This makes clear that members are to be appointed by the Board, with the approval of the Lord Chancellor.

Report of Chair of the recruiting panel and recommendation to the Board

5. The report of the Chair of the recruiting panel, which sets out details of the role and person specification and process, as well as the panel's final recommendation, is attached at **Annex A**.
6. For background reference, current membership of the Legal Services Consumer Panel including background and location is attached at **Annex B**.

Recommendation

7. The panel recommends to the Board the appointment of **Frances Harrison** to the Consumer Panel, for onward submission to the Lord Chancellor for approval.
8. The proposed appointment is for a three year term (ending March 2016), staggered and aligned to the year-end appointments schedule for the Consumer Panel.

Next steps

9. Current membership and terms of office of the Consumer Panel is as follows:

Member	Appointments 2009/10		Appointments 2011/12		Appointments 2012/13	
	Appointed	Terminates	Appointed	Terminates	Appointed	Terminates
Jeffrey Bell	1 Nov 2009	31 Oct 2011	1 Nov 2011	31 Mar 2014	-	-
Graham Corbett	1 Nov 2009	31 Oct 2012	-	-	1 Nov 2012	31 Oct 2013
Elisabeth Davies [∞]	1 Nov 2009	31 Oct 2012	1 Aug 2011	31 Mar 2013	1 Aug 2012	31 Mar 2015
Emma Harrison	1 Nov 2009	31 Oct 2011	1 Nov 2011	31 Mar 2014	-	-
Paul Munden	1 Nov 2009	31 Oct 2011	1 Nov 2011	31 Mar 2014	-	-
Neil Wightman	1 Nov 2009	31 Oct 2011	1 Nov 2011	31 Mar 2014	-	-
Karin Woodley	1 Nov 2009	31 Oct 2012		-	1 Nov 2012	31 Oct 2013

[∞] In response to Dianne Hayter's resignation, LSB agreed on 20 July 2011 to appoint Elisabeth Davies as the Interim Chair of LSCP for the period 1 August 2011 to 31 March 2013.

10. Lessons learnt from this recruitment exercise will be fed in to the next round of Panel recruitment, which will continue to be overseen by the RNC on the Board's behalf.

Annex B

Current membership of the Legal Services Consumer Panel including background and location is as follows:

Name	Background	Location
Elisabeth Davies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim Director, Arthritis Care • Former Director of Partner Relations, Age UK, working with 160 Age UKs across England and supporting the work of Age Cymru • Previously Deputy Chair of Wandsworth Primary Care Trust and former Chair of Wandsworth CAB • Career includes senior roles at National Patient Safety Agency, Patient Association and Refugee Council 	London
Jeffrey Bell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trading Standards Consultant • Formerly Chief Trading Standards Officer at Redcar and Cleveland Unitary Council • Previously Chair of the North East Trading Standards Association and a Member of the North East Electricity Consumers' Committee. 	Stockton-on-Tees
Graham Corbett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a member of the Employment Tribunal Panel • Previously PCS Union – Senior National Officer 	West Yorkshire
Emma Harrison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Public Engagement at Action on Hearing Loss (formerly Royal National Institute for the Deaf) • Formerly Principal Public Affairs Officer, Which? 	London
Paul Munden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experienced general counsel and chartered director • has held a number of senior board posts at the Business Link operation in London. • On the board of NHS Mid Essex and the National Youth Music Theatre 	Essex
Neil Wightman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Housing Needs at the London Borough of Lambeth • Joint Chair of the Association of Housing Advice Services • Previous Panel Member, Beacon Advisory Panel 	London
Karin Woodley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Executive of ContinYou • Previously CEO, Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust • previously Chair of Kensington and Chelsea Metropolitan Police Independent Advisory Group on Race 	London