

Legal Week

Judicial Appointments Commission revealed

The government has today unveiled the members of its inaugural Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC), the new body that will take responsibility for appointing judges in England and Wales.

The Department for Constitutional Affairs, which will hand over judicial appointment procedures in April, has revealed that Brick Court Chambers' joint head Jonathan Sumption QC and former Law Society President Edward Nally have been named as the two professional members of the new independent 14-member body.

Senior appeals judge Lord Justice Sir Robin Auld is one of the four judicial members, with Professor Hazel Genn, a law professor at University College London, being the most high-profile of four lay members of the new body, which will be chaired by Baroness Usha Prashar.

The appointments also include a single tribunal representative and a lay justice member, with a final judicial member to be announced shortly.

The JAC was rolled out last year as part of a wider revamp of the UK's courts system and will oversee the open selection of judges in courts and tribunals, both responsibilities which previously fell under the remit of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Falconer.

The move marks a key stage in the ongoing reform of the role of the Lord Chancellor, in line with the Constitutional Reform Act, which also creates a new UK supreme court.

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