



## JUSTICE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 16 October 2024 at 5.30pm

Dechert LLP 25 Cannon St, London, EC4M 5UB and online via Teams

[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 299 897 481 442 Passcode: YKi7hh

### AGENDA

Meeting to be chaired by Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws LT KC, President of the JUSTICE Council.

**Registration for the meeting will start at 5pm, with the opportunity for members to network with staff ahead of the meeting, which will start promptly at 5.30pm.**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting of JUSTICE
3. Presentation of the achievements of the year from Chair of the JUSTICE Board (**non-voting item**)
4. Appointment of Council members (**voting item**) Paper 1
5. Appointment of the Chair of the Board (**voting item**) Paper 2
6. The Year Ahead / New Strategy by Fiona Rutherford, JUSTICE Chief Executive (**non-voting item**)
7. Increasing engagement, Fiona Rutherford (**non-voting item**)
8. Any other business



**MINUTES**  
**JUSTICE Annual General Meeting**  
**Wednesday 8 November 2023 – 17:30**  
**Held on Zoom**

**Present:**

Nicholas Aleksander, Les Allamby, Stephen Aulsebrook LLB, Nick Benson, Peter Binning, I. Stephanie Boyce, Joanna Cherry KC MP, Ruth Crawford KC, Harold Driver, Kourosh Fallah, Sir Gary Hickinbottom, Patricia Hitchcock KC, Professor Jacqueline Hodgson, Theo Huckle KC, Hilary Joyce, David Lakhdir, Professor Anna Lawson, Alastair Livesey, Jennifer MacLeod, Sara Mansoori KC, Shelagh McCall KC, Maryann McMahon, Karyl Nairn KC, Amanda Pinto KC, Chris Purnell, Kathleen Russ, Vikram Sachdeva KC, Kate Saunders, Caroline Sheppard OBE, Sir Michael Tugendhat, Beatrice Yahia.

The Chair of the Board, Peter Binning, opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

1. **Apologies:** Alexandra Carr, Andrea Coomber KC (Hon), Karamjit Singh CBE, Professor Nicholas Grief, Alexandra Marks CBE, Christian Weaver, Charles Wynn Evans.
2. **Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting of JUSTICE** The minutes were approved.
3. **Presentation of the Annual Review by Peter Binning, Chair of the JUSTICE Board**

Peter noted it had been a particularly busy year at JUSTICE. Despite being faced with an extremely full legislative agenda and hostile government rhetoric on human rights, JUSTICE has produced carefully balanced, solution-oriented work across a wide range of important topics.

The team have moved into temporary office accommodation while we secure a workspace that fits our needs in the medium to long term.

This year's finances saw an improvement from previous years and overall we ended the year with a small surplus of just over £7k when we exclude the proceeds of the sale and



losses from investments. Our reserves remain below our reserves policy so the Senior Management Team are working on a five to ten year plan to ensure the organisation's sustainability and growth.

We have produced two working party reports: Improving Access to Justice for Separating Families and Reforming the Afghanistan Resettlement Schemes, which was covered by the BBC and others. A new working party on Outsourcing and Administrative Justice launched in February, and research is underway in our Prisons working party. We also collected and analysed data from over 700 magistrates' courts' hearings to inform a report on remand decision-making. The team began exploring a new project on AI in the justice system and finalised our work on the function and operation of Behavioural Control Orders. JUSTICE also submitted multiple briefings and consultations during the period. The team prepared a landmark report and event series on the rule of law in the UK.

The Administrative Justice Council set up four working groups this year to explore how to improve access to justice.

Chair of JUSTICE Scotland, Almira Delibegović-Broome KC, and Vice-Chair Seonaid Stevenson-McCabe continued to make strides growing our Scottish presence. They secured office space, hosted successful events, partnered with Human Rights Consortium Scotland on two reports, and we have recently benefitted from the involvement of a funded legal secondee from top Scottish firm, Burness Paul.

Peter noted he is extremely grateful to the JUSTICE team who continue to deliver exceptional work across a huge range of issues. Peter gave thanks to our Board Members stepping down this year – Alexandra Carr and Kate Saunders - their advice and insights have been invaluable, and Peter is very pleased that they've both confirmed their continued support in a range of ways. Peter finished by thanking all our members, JUSTICE is extremely grateful for your continued support, engagement, and expertise.

#### **4. Appointment of Council members**

The following Council members were re-nominated by the Board, to re-stand for another three-year term: Zahra Al-Rikabi, Anand Doobay, Lord Dyson PC, Millicent Grant KC



(Hon), Dominic Grieve KC (Vice Present), Professor Anna Lawson, Baroness Sarah Ludford (Vice President), Sonali Naik KC, Andrew Onslow KC, Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, Mark Trafford KC and Jessica Simor KC. A poll was held, and the meeting approved their appointment.

## **5. Election of Board members**

Peter paid tribute to two members retiring from the Board: Alexandra Carr and Kate Saunders. Peter thanked them for their work and contribution over the years.

Three JUSTICE members stood for election to the Board, as the number of nominations did not exceed the number of vacancies, a poll was held to approve the election of Nick Benson, Ruth Crawford KC and Charles Wynn-Evans to the Board. The meeting approved these appointments.

Peter gave his congratulations to the new Board members and looks forward to meeting them soon.

## **6. Report back from Karyl Nairn KC, Chair of the Development Board**

JUSTICE is interested in building our funding base over the next few years. If any members have any contacts, please do get in touch with Amanda Miller.

Karyl thanked the corporates who have supported us over the last year.

Tickets are still available to the next fundraising event in our Rule of Law series on 15 November.

Karyl is extremely grateful to our Board, Council, Development Board, Friends, members, JUSTICE60, Justices of the Supreme Court and all those that helped us this year.

Peter thanked Karyl for her support over the last year.

## **7. The Year Ahead by Fiona Rutherford, JUSTICE Chief Executive**



Fiona summarised what lay in store for JUSTICE and the year ahead.

She explained that the Ministry of Justice had been persuaded to fund and resource the Administrative Justice Council to reflect the approach taken to the Civil Justice Council and the Family Justice Council. The JUSTICE AJC secretariat will be transferred across to the MoJ early in 2025.

Peter noted it sounds like a very exciting year ahead and thanked Fiona.

There was a question about JUSTICE responding to the Gaza ceasefire. It was confirmed that JUSTICE does not have any international conflict expertise.

#### **8. Report back from The Rt. Hon. Sir Gary Hickinbottom, Chair of the Outsourcing and Administrative Justice Working Party**

The Rt. Hon. Sir Gary Hickinbottom experienced technical issues so was unable to join the meeting but sent his notes which can be found [here](#).

#### **9. Any other business**

Karyl noted information about the event at the National Gallery on 13 December. This is a thank you event hosted by Karyl for JUSTICE60 patrons only. If you were thinking of joining the JUSTICE60 this would be a good time. Karyl invited the members at the AGM to become a JUSTICE60 member and come along. There are also Supreme Court patrons attending and it should be a special evening.

We are working on a one-page guide for non-lawyers to explain what we do, with information about joining the JUSTICE60. This will be shared with the post AGM email.

*This concluded the AGM.*



## Paper 1

### JUSTICE Council appointments

The role of Council is to provide advice to the Board of JUSTICE as requested, including:

- Evaluating JUSTICE's work and providing suggestions for the future direction of JUSTICE's work;
- Advising on JUSTICE policy with respect to challenging issues of the day;
- Assisting JUSTICE staff by providing contacts, for example, for the purposes of advancing policy work, fundraising and profile raising; and
- Being part of a network of support for JUSTICE and its staff.

Forty Council members are elected by the AGM upon nomination by the Board. Another ten can be co-opted by the Board, most often at its meeting following the AGM.

The following seven Council members have agreed to re-stand and have been duly re-nominated by the Board:

- Nicholas Aleksander
- Lord Anderson of Ipswich KBE KC
- Baroness Shami Chakrabarti CBE
- Deba Das
- David Lakhdhir
- Shelagh McCall KC
- Professor Leslie Thomas KC

The following people are standing down, with thanks from the Board for their time on Council:

- Zahra Al-Rikabi
- Mark Trafford KC
- Victoria Butler-Cole KC
- Catherine Smith KC

The following six people have been duly nominated by the Board for appointment to the Council:

**Christina Blacklaws** studied Jurisprudence at Oxford and was recently elected as an Honorary Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford University. She is a qualified solicitor, advocate and mediator. She is a former President of the Law Society of England and Wales, the representative body of over 220,000 solicitors.



She is an innovator in the legal field, having developed and managed one of the first 'virtual' law firms and set up the UK's very first Alternative Business Structure with the Cooperative Group. She was also one of the first Directors of Innovation at a top UK firm.

She now runs her own consultancy business providing strategic advice particularly in the areas of transformational change, technological developments and diversity and inclusion.

Christina is a non-executive director for three large law firms and a barristers' chambers. She holds a range of public appointments including chairing a UK Government body: LawTech UK, chairing the Judicial Pensions Board and recently stepped down from the Kings Counsel Selection Panel.

Christina is the representative for England and Wales on the International Bar Association's Council.

She is committed to supporting human rights and chairs the UK human rights charity, the Civil Liberties Trust and is a member of the IBA's Human Rights Institute Council.

Passionate about diversity and inclusion, Christina is the former representative for the Women Lawyers Division on the Law Society of England and Wales Council. As president, she spearheaded the largest ever global research on women in law involving thousands of lawyers over 20 countries and resulting in three reports and a UK Government backed Pledge.

Christina speaks internationally on a wide range of business, legal and ethical topics and is a multi-award winning (for innovation and diversity and inclusion) published author, lecturer and media commentator.

Christina is a member of JUSTICE's Steering Group for our AI and the Law programme of work.

**Dr Natalie Byrom** is a researcher and policy adviser with expertise in justice system reform, AI, data-driven technologies and justice data governance. She has a track record of leading high-quality research and translating this into policy impact. Between 2018 and 2020 Dr Byrom was seconded to the UK Ministry of Justice as expert adviser on data in the context of an ongoing £1bn programme of digital court reform. She has also completed projects for the OECD on justice data and AI.



Dr Byrom has given evidence to a number of parliamentary committees including the Justice Select Committee and the House of Lords Constitution Committee on issues relating to justice system reform, data collection and governance. Her writing on these issues has been published in the legal and national press. She is part of the BBC Expert Women Network, holds several public appointments, and is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at UCL Faculty of Laws and a Fellow at Connected by Data.

Dr Byrom has played a key role in JUSTICE's data and transparency work including our exciting new project to improve evidence-led policy making and the delivery of frontline services: 'JUSTICE insights' (working title).

**The Rt Hon Alex Chalk KC** is a prominent British politician, lawyer, and public servant. He was educated at Winchester College and Magdalen College Oxford (Modern History). After working post-university as a speechwriter for William Hague as Leader of the Opposition, he studied for the Graduate Diploma in Law at City University, graduating with 'Distinction' in 2000.

He secured tenancy at 6 Pump Court (common law) before later moving to 6KBW College Hill (leading criminal law set).

In a sixteen-year career as a barrister, Alex specialised in serious fraud, counterterrorism and homicide. He appeared in many high-profile cases that were widely reported in the media - from bomb plots to major cross-border fraud. Instructed by the SFO, FCA and many others, he also prosecuted a number of acolytes of Anjem Choudary, who has been described as the face of Islamist extremism in the UK.

He was elected as the Member of Parliament for Cheltenham in 2015 and was re-elected in 2017 and 2019.

In Parliament, Alex quickly gained a reputation as an independent-minded and thoughtful parliamentarian.

Considered a "rising star" of the 2015 intake he campaigned to increase the maximum sentence for stalking, following the ordeal suffered by one of his constituents, a Cheltenham GP. He fought successfully for a homelessness hub to be set up in the town, and used his platform in Parliament to face down attempts to shut Cheltenham's A&E.





He describes his driving passion as social mobility, something which lay behind his vision to transform the town into a national cyber hub to create opportunities for young people from all backgrounds. He successfully secured over £42m from central Government for his plans.

Alex was appointed a minister in 2020, and served in a series of roles, including HM Solicitor General for England & Wales and Lord Chancellor & Secretary of State for Justice. Alex was a coopted member of the JUSTICE Council from 2016-2018 and has provided his support with our recent Law for Lawmakers Guide.

**Vicky Fox** is Chief Executive of The Supreme Court and the JCPC, joining the Court in September 2020. The role involves responsibility for all the non-judicial functions of the Court and leading the administration, a team of approximately 60 staff and contractors supporting the work of the Justices. These functions include operations, education and outreach, international work, stakeholder engagement, and diversity and inclusion. Vicky is an Accounting Officer and responsible for the Court's budget.

Vicky has led the Court administration, ensuring that it is transparent and accessible to all. She introduced the Judicial Diversity and Inclusion Strategy in 2021, and the innovative paid internships for underrepresented groups, in partnership with Bridging the Bar. These have now extended across a number of Courts. Under her leadership, the Court is due to deliver its three-year change programme on time and in budget. This will provide a brand-new user-centric, digital service for the lifecycle of an appeal and new websites, enhancing access to justice and increasing public trust in the legal sector. Vicky leads on national and international stakeholder engagement, building trusted relationships with Parliaments and governments, UK and national courts.

Vicky was previously the Director of Regulation and Insight at the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. She was called to the Bar in 1995 and has 15 years' experience as a government lawyer, including work at the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department of Health. She was Head of Guidance, Party and Election Finance at the Electoral Commission before moving to work at the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority as Director of MP Support Services and then in 2018 as Director of Regulation and Insight.

Vicky is passionate about equality and fairness. She is a regular mentor, primarily for parents of young children and has enjoyed being a reverse mentee to learn more deeply about diversity, equity and inclusion. In 2019, she made the Timewise Power 50 List.



Vicky is currently the Co-chair of a Board of Trustees of a busy London community centre, including a full-time nursery, synagogue, youth education, and community and cultural activities for all generations. She has held a number of voluntary and trustee roles including as a parent governor at a London comprehensive school, and a lay member of the NHS Blood and Transplant National Retrieval Group.

**Keir Monteith KC** is a leading silk who represents clients facing heavyweight criminal allegations. Keir also sits as a Recorder (part-time Crown Court judge) and is a training tutor for the Judicial College. He is ranked for criminal law in Chambers UK and the Legal 500. He is ranked in Tier 1 for Fraud in the Legal 500 2024 and was nominated for Silk of the year in the financial crime category.

He co-authored the groundbreaking report '[Racial Bias and the Bench](#)' (University of Manchester, 2022) - 34,000 plus downloads - with professor Eithne Quinn. He is also an Honorary Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Manchester, a founding member of [Art Not Evidence](#) and a Trustee for the charity [SHiFT](#).

He has been instructed in numerous murders, industrial scale Class A drug importations and conspiracies, escape from custody cases and appeals against conviction and sentence. He currently represents a total of four defendants who are appealing convictions for murder or conspiracy to commit GBH. In each case the defendants were youngsters of good character looking forward to work or university. Meanwhile the prosecution relied on who they allegedly associated with; where they lived and or possession or presence in a rap video to help prove gang membership.

Kier has been instrumental in JUSTICE's work to improve judicial diversity and our intervention case work.

**Sir Bob Neill KC (Hon)** read law at LSE and was called to the Bar by Middle Temple, where he is now a Bencher. He is also a member of the Irish Bar. He practiced from 2 Bedford Row, specialising in serious crime.

Having previously served as a London Brough Councillor and member of the London Assembly, he was MP for Bromley and Chislehurst from 2006 until he retired in 2024. He was Minister for Local Government and Planning from 2010 to 2012.



From 2013 to 2015 he was a member of the UK delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, where he served on the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights.

From 2015 to 2024 he was Chair of the Justice Select Committee. During that time the committee built a reputation for robust scrutiny and challenge across all areas of the Justice system. He was appointed Kings Counsel (Honoris Causa) in 2024 for “his contributions in upholding the rule of law and as an advocate for the judiciary and legal profession”.

They will join the following JUSTICE Council members:

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|--|--|
| 1. Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws<br>KC (P) | 15. Baroness Sarah Ludford (VP)            |
| 2. Les Allamby                             | 16. Alexandra Marks CBE                    |
| 3. Almira Delibegovic-Broome KC            | 17. Sonali Naik KC                         |
| 4. Anand Doobay                            | 18. Karyl Nairn KC                         |
| 5. Lord Dyson PC                           | 19. Andrew Onslow KC                       |
| 6. Amanda Finlay CBE                       | 20. Her Honour Judge Angela Rafferty<br>KC |
| 7. Millicent Grant KC (Hon)                | 21. Kathleen Russ                          |
| 8. Dominic Grieve KC (VP)                  | 22. Caroline Sheppard OBE                  |
| 9. Saima Hanif KC                          | 23. Jessica Simor KC                       |
| 10. Professor Jacqueline Hodgson           | 24. Tim Smith                              |
| 11. Dean Kingham                           | 25. Aaron Stephens                         |
| 12. Professor Anna Lawson                  | 26. Professor Richard Susskind OBE         |
| 13. Andrew Lidbetter                       | 27. Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd                |
| 14. George Lubega                          |  |

The Board have also approved the appointment of former Board members Patrick Corr, Professor Naomi Creutzfeldt, Jennifer MacLeod, Rachel Sexton and Peter Binning as Honorary Council Members.

They will join the following Honorary Council members:

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Walter Merricks CBE   | 5. Nancy Lynn Hiestand |
| 2. Theo Huckle KC        | 6. Alexandra Carr      |
| 3. Sir Michael Tugendhat | 7. Kate Saunders       |
| 4. Christina Liciaga     |                        |



## Paper 2

### Appointment of the Chair of the Board

Under the Articles and Regulations of JUSTICE, the Chair of the Board is to be nominated by the Board from among its members to be appointed for a four-year term, and that nomination is to be approved by the AGM.

Peter Binning will complete his four-year term of office as Chair of the Board at the AGM, and we are extremely grateful to Peter for his service to JUSTICE.

The Board has nominated Dame Alison Saunders DCB to be appointed as Chair of the Board. Members are asked to approve her nomination.

**Alison Saunders** has been a member of JUSTICE since 2018, when she was appointed to the JUSTICE Council. Alison was elected to the Board in October 2019. Alison is a qualified barrister and partner at Linklaters. Before joining Linklaters, Alison was the most senior public prosecutor in England and Wales, as the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and head of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), only the second woman to hold the post. Alison served as deputy legal adviser to the Attorney General from 2003 to 2005, returning to establish organised crime division of the CPS and serve as the chief crown prosecutor for London from 2009 to 2013. She previously sat on the Sentencing Council.