

**Minutes of a meeting held at 2nd Floor Markwell House
on Wednesday 08th November 2023**

Members Present:	Ruth Costain (Chair)	RC
	David Trace (Vice Chair) (<i>via Teams</i>)	DT
	Colm Andrew	CA
	Howard Connell	HC
	Bob Ayre (<i>via Teams</i>)	BA
	Paul Coppell	PC
Officers Present:	Christine Clucas	CC
	Alex Powell (Note Taker)	AP
Apologies:	Pam Pringle	PP
	Martina Jay	MJ

37/23	WELCOME AND MINUTES		
	<p>RC opened the meeting, apologies had been received from PP and MJ. No conflicts of interest were declared.</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting 11th October, having been previously circulated, were approved.</p>		
38/23	MATTERS ARISING		
		None.	
39/23	MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION AND DECISION		
	(a)	Update on Staffing/Operational Matters (CC)	
		<p>(i) CC said reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting of the Joint Consultative Council which was hosted by Legal Aid on-Island on 20th October was very productive and a useful information sharing exercise. • The Treasury Minister, Hon Dr Alex Allinson MHK – accompanied by CC - has met with the President of the Law Society HM Attorney General’s Review of Legal Aid, CC will arrange the publication. Following on from this, the Council of Ministers has granted permission for a new Legal Aid Bill to be drafted. The meeting noted that this would require the implementation of a major change programme for Legal Aid and that resources for project management may be required. 	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP is leaving the Legal Aid Office on 10th November, the Committee thanked her for her hard work over the past 8 years. Ian Jackson (IJ) has been appointed as a permanent member of the Team. • IJ has scrutinised a sample of Legal Aid applications and identified that just 47% of them are fully complete on submission. It may be helpful for the Legal Aid Office to address this by working with Advocates to improve upon this statistic. PC suggested it could be incorporated into Continued Professional Development programmes. 	
40/23	ANY OTHER BUSINESS			
		None.		

The meeting closed at 14:28

Minutes agreed

**By
Chair**



Date 13/12/2023 .