



**Thursday 16.01.25 5:00 p.m. – J25 Branch Quarterly Meeting
Final Agenda**

Meeting open to all J25 branch members by Zoom

1. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting 24.10.24 – Approval (further copy attached)**
 - a. Draft also previously circulated
3. **Branch Scope, Objectives, Organisation, Campaigns**
 - a. Proposal to include other expert JoHs such as doctors as entitled to join us, so that we become judicial instead of judges' branch
 - b. Adoption of Aims and Objectives to reflect judges' duty of reserve– see motion overleaf
 - c. Adoption of annual Branch Development Plan (where we're at/ want to go)– see attached
 - d. Proposal that we monitor JAC issues revealed by FOI requests with view to possible branch campaign – raised by Abbas Mithani
 - e. Proposal that we, depending on judicial attitudes survey results due imminently: issue a Press Release calling upon the Ministry of Justice to honour their duty of care to us, insist on codes for leadership judges, Presiders and to stand up to the Judicial office support of poor behaviour of some leadership judges - raised by KK.
 - f. Election of 2nd Auditor, now we are about to exceed 100 members and have our own bank account.
4. **National GMB Conference Brighton 8.6.24 - 12.6.24**
 - a. Proposed motion – see motion overleaf
 - b. Any members wish to attend as visitors?
5. **Secretary's Oral Report** (adding to Branch Development Plan at 3c above)
 - a. Questions or comments
 - b. Any matters arising from it, or from previous meeting, that relate to secretary
6. **President's Oral Report**
 - a. Questions or comments
 - b. Any matters arising from it, or from previous meeting, that relate to President
7. **Matters Arising**
 - a. Any matters arising from previous meeting not already dealt with

Motion - Agenda Item 3b - Adoption of Aims and Objectives

“The GMB Judges Branch adopts the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) Opinion 23 on the role of a judge’s association, which establishes relevant international standards. CCJE advises the Council of Europe.

Accordingly GMB J25 Judges Branch's Aims & Objectives are:

- 1 contributing to the administering of justice in conjunction with those responsible for it*
- 2 promoting fair recruitment, promotion and disciplinary practices*
- 3 defending judges and judiciary against any infringements of independence,*
- 4 claiming sufficient resources and satisfactory working conditions*
- 5 aiming for adequate remuneration and social security*
- 6 rejecting unfair criticism and attacks against the judiciary and individual judges*
- 7 establishing, promoting and implementing ethical standards, and*
- 8 safeguarding non-discrimination and gender balance.*

The term 'judges' has been used above for brevity. 'Judges' are all Judicial Office Holders including tribunal expert members such as doctors.”

Opinion 23 can be found here <https://rm.coe.int/opinion-23-en-ccje-2020/1680a03d4b>

Motion - Agenda Item 4a – GMB Congress

“This Congress condemns the continued horrific delays in UK courts and tribunals. These are particularly severe in the crown court where victims and those accused of crimes have their lives put on hold for years while they wait for justice to be done. Sometimes justice is defeated when memories fade or victims withdraw. Congress resolves to campaign for proper resources for justice and a proper plan for the courts and tribunals to eliminate unacceptable delays while safeguarding the quality of British justice.”