



Attorney
General's
Office

Minutes

Meeting: Serious Fraud Office (SFO) Ministerial Strategic Board (MSB)

Date: 23 October 2019

Board members:

- Attorney General, Geoffrey Cox QC MP (AG) – Chair
- Solicitor General, Michael Ellis QC MP (SG)
- Director of the SFO, Lisa Osofsky (LO)
- Director General of the AGO, Rowena Collins Rice (RCR)
- SFO Chief Operating Officer, John Carroll (JC)
- SFO Non-Executive Director, Sanjay Bhandari (SB)

Secretary:

- Director of the AGO, Shehzad Charania (SC)

By invitation:

- HMCPSI Chief Inspector, Kevin McGinty (KM)
- SFO Head of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer, Liz Corrin (LC)

Item 1 – Introductions and leadership update

1. The AG opened the meeting by welcoming John Carroll, the new interim Chief Operating Officer, and Sanjay Bhandari, incoming SFO Non-Executive Director, to their first meeting of the MSB.
2. The Board confirmed that they were content with the minutes of the last meeting.

Item 2 – Performance update

3. The Board reviewed the SFO's performance in Q1 of 2019-20. There were three main areas of discussion: reliance on temporary staff, staff diversity, and case progression.
4. The Board reviewed the SFO's strategic risks.

Item 3 – Finance update

5. The Board reviewed the SFO's financial performance and discussed the SFO's proposed approach to the next Spending Review.

Item 4 – HMCPSI reports

6. The Board discussed HMCPSI's *SFO leadership review*, published in July 2019, and the SFO's response to the report's findings.

7. The Board discussed HMCPSP's *Case progression in the SFO* report, which was published in October 2019, and the SFO's initial response to its recommendations.

Item 5 – Strategic engagement update

8. The Board discussed the SFO's strategic Parliamentary and cross-Whitehall engagement since the last meeting.

Item 6 – Any other business

9. The Board noted the SFO communications update without comment.