

REPORT: Appointment to the Independent Prison Monitoring Board

23rd April 2024

Background

The Independent Prison Monitoring Board was established in April 2017 according to The Prison (Independent Monitoring Board) Regulations ('The regulations').

The Regulations provide that the Board must satisfy itself of:

- (a) the treatment and welfare of the prisoners;
- (b) the state of the premises of the prison; and
- (c) the administration of the prison.

In 2022 the Board carried out 32 Monitoring Visits to HMP La Moye and looked into 38 applications made by Prisoners at HMP La Moye.

The IPMB provides a vital safeguard to ensure the correct treatment of people detained at HMP La Moye and is a central feature of the island's move towards demonstrating compliance with the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) requirements.

The regulations provide that the Minister must appoint the members of the Monitoring Board and must appoint from the membership of the Monitoring Board a chairman and a deputy chairman.

Recruitment of new Members

Further to vacancies arising on the Board, a recruitment campaign was undertaken on 19/01/2024 to seek new members in accordance with Government of Jersey recruitment guidelines. Six applications were received through Gov.je, with five attending for interview. The board was looking for a minimum of three new members, however since then a member has informed the Chair of their decision to resign when the new members are onboarded.

Following these interviews, it was deemed that four of the interviewees were suitable for appointment. Two have now been appointed. One is awaiting DBS clearance.

The DBS for Stephen Crane has now been received, therefore it is recommended that the Minister appoints Mr Crane as a Member of the Board.

Mr Crane scored highest on interview. He was an advocate in property, probate and wills until 2023, when he retired. Early on in his career, he spent five years looking after the legal aid department in a significant Jersey law practice, which involved him advising and representing those accused of criminal activity, which he found very rewarding.

From 1998 to 2000 he was the Acting Batonnier and administered Jersey legal aid. He operated a clinic every morning from Monday to Saturday and was responsible for adjudicating on various disputes arising within the legal aid system.

Mr Crane would like to give back to the community and feels that as a member of the IPMB, he would be able to provide a significant contribution.

These appointments will bring the total membership of the Board to 14 members, however this will reduce to 13 when the resignation is submitted and accepted. Another member is currently on sabbatical, therefore there will be 12 active members.

The term of appointment for all members is for 4 years.