

Change to designated roles appointed under the *Loi (1934) Sur La Santé Publique*

Introduction

The *Loi (1934) Sur La Santé Publique* (the “1934 Loi”) continues to be relevant in protecting Islanders from risks to public health. Most recently, this provision was used in the Covid-19 pandemic. The law allows, among other matters, the appointment of an *Inspecteur Médical* (“Medical Officer of Health”), and the appointment of one or more alternate Medical Officers of Health and Health Inspectors.

Issue

The Minister for Health and Social Security has previously decided that the statutory functions of the Medical Officer of Health (“MOH”) will normally be carried out by the substantively appointed Director of Public Health (DPH), currently Professor Peter Bradley.

However, there is a need to ensure a good degree of resilience in this statutory role. It is understood that the Minister has the power to appoint alternative MOHs (who will be referred to as “Associate MOHs” in this document), who can also carry out the duties of the MoH.

Currently there are a number of people appointed to these roles, some of whom have changed status or left the Government of Jersey. An update of these appointees is therefore recommended.

Recommendations

Associate Medical Officers of Health

The following is recommended to continue as an Associate Medical Officer of Health:

- Medical Director for Health and Community Services, currently Dr Patrick Armstrong.

It is recommended two further senior doctors are appointed:

- Dr Matthew Doyle, Interim Chief of Service, Primary Care, Prevention, Screening, Adult Therapies and Community Dentistry
- Dr. John McInerney, Consultant in Emergency Medicine.

All other previous appointments will be revoked.

It is recommended that the DPH would normally determine how the Associate Medical Officers of Health conduct their duties and make recommendations for replacements should posts become vacant.

In addition to the Associate Medical Officers of Health, the 1934 Loi allows the appointment of ‘Health Inspectors’ to support the Medical Officers of Health in the fulfilment of their functions. It would be appropriate to renew the authorisations of the existing Health Inspectors (i.e. Environmental Health Officers and Senior Technical Officers) authorised by the Minister for Health and Social Services.

Health inspectors

Currently a large number of people are nominated as Health Inspectors. It is recommended that those designated are now limited to those persons so designated by:

- Head of Environmental and Consumer Protection, currently Alison de Bourcier, and Infrastructure and Environment and Regulation Standards Manager, currently Caroline Maffia.

In order to provide sufficient capacity in the event of a major health protection incident, it is also proposed that the Chief Ambulance Officer and/or nominated deputy is also made a Health Inspector under the 1934 Loi. The current Chief Ambulance Officer is Peter Gavey.

The primary role of the ambulance paramedic would be to assess the health of an individual through a clinical assessment and then, if necessary, facilitate their transfer to a designated place of patient isolation.

Place of patient isolation

- The 1934 Loi allows the Minister to designate a specific place for patient isolation in order to prevent contagion. It is recommended that this would remain as Jersey General Hospital, or an alternative site designated by the Minister.

Previous decisions regarding these designations or appointments will be superseded if these recommendations are approved, but current designations with respect to the authorisation of cremation applications are not affected.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications identified as arising from this decision.