

REPORT

Introduction

The Chief Minister presented a report to the States Assembly, giving 2 weeks' notice of the intention to appoint Mr John Farina as the Official Analyst.

The Chief Minister must appoint an officer as the Official Analyst under Article 2 of the Official Analyst (Jersey) Law 2022 (the "2022 Law"). Article 2 states –

"2 Appointment of Official Analyst

- (1) The Minister must appoint an officer as the Official Analyst for the discharging of the functions of the Official Analyst.
- (2) Before appointing an Official Analyst the Minister must consult and take into account the views of the Jersey Appointments Commission established under Article 17 of the 2005 Law.
- (3) Article 2 of the 2018 Law (which requires advance notice of the appointment to be given to the States) applies to the appointment of the Official Analyst.
- (4) The Official Analyst must hold and vacate office in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Official Analyst's appointment.
- (5) The Minister may appoint a person as the Official Analyst only if the person –
 - (a) holds a Mastership in Chemical Analysis awarded by the Royal Society of Chemistry; or
 - (b) both –
 - (i) demonstrates the necessary level of knowledge, skill and experience in analytical chemistry and microbiological examination necessary to perform the functions of the Official Analyst under Jersey legislation, and
 - (ii) holds a qualification in analytical chemistry.
- (6) If the Minister appoints a person who does not satisfy paragraph (5)(a), the Minister must –
 - (a) include in the advance notice required under Article 2 of the 2018 Law the qualifications the person has and the reasons the Minister determines that it is reasonable to appoint someone who does not satisfy that paragraph; and
 - (b) set out in writing the reasons why the Minister determines that it is reasonable to appoint someone who does not satisfy that paragraph and publish those reasons.
- (7) The Minister may, by Order, amend paragraph (5)(a)"

Background to the Office of the Official Analyst

The functions of the Official Analyst are set out under Article 5 the 2022 Law. Article 5 states –

"5 Function of the Official Analyst

- (1) The function of the Official Analyst is to use chemical and microbiological analysis to advise on and investigate matters where it is in the public interest to do so, including in relation to –
 - (a) law and order;
 - (b) public health and safety;
 - (c) environmental protection;
 - (d) consumer interests;
 - (e) government policies and functions."

The position of Official Analyst was first established in 1884. The office of the Official Analyst provides analysis across a wide range of sectors, including samples of fertilisers and feeds, forensic samples in criminal cases, gas, water and medicines. The Official Analyst performs functions which are equivalent to that of public analysts elsewhere in the British Isles.

Matters relating to the appointment

In accordance with the requirements of the 2022 Law, the selection process was overseen by the Jersey Appointments Commission. The Chief Minister's function to appoint the Official Analyst under Article 2 of the 2022 Law was delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive Officer on 12 September 2023 ([R.135/2023](#)). Accordingly, the Assistant Chief Executive Officer makes the appointment.

Financial and resource implications

There are no additional financial or resource implications in making this appointment. The former Official Analyst has retired, and the role is, therefore, vacant. All staff costs including the Official Analyst (current grade CS15), are included in the existing allocated budget.

Short biography: Mr. John Farina

Mr John Farina has worked at the Official Analyst's laboratory for over 30 years, starting as an Analyst in 1987 and working up to his current role as Principal Analyst. He has been Acting Up into the position of Official Analyst, following the retirement of the current Official Analyst.

Having graduated from the University of Nottingham, where he was awarded a BSc (Joint Hons) in Physics and Chemistry, John joined the laboratory in 1987 as an analyst for 12 months, before then returning to Nottingham to undertake further studies for a PhD in catalysis. Upon returning to the laboratory in 1992, John has been involved in the full spectrum of laboratory work, starting with wet chemistry water analysis, progressing to general environmental analysis and public health work, and finally moving into forensics, with a specialisation in toxicology.

This specialisation has led him to be part of the UK and Ireland Forensic Toxicology professional body and he now sits on the Method Validation sub-group which has been consulting on LAB 51 - an adaptation of ISO 17025 to the specifics of forensic toxicology.

He has undertaken secondments across numerous sectors including the National Poison's Unit in New Cross Hospital, Health & Social Services department acting as Executive Officer for the Substance Misuse Strategy and a secondment to the Home Affairs department doing similar work on the Crime and Community Safety Strategy, further adding to his extensive experience in the principal functions of the Official Analyst's Department in Jersey.

Alongside his work at the laboratory, John has undertaken a course of study in Analytical Chemistry, based on the MChemA principles, at Reading University, and has also completed a Diploma in Medical Toxicology at Cardiff University. Additionally, he has successfully completed his Jersey Advocate and Solicitors exams. More recently, John has attained a Certificate in Analytical Chemistry as part of his studies towards an MSc in Analytical Chemistry at the University of Manchester.

ENDS.