

REPORT: Appointments to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

07TH May 2024

Background

The current Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB) was established on 1st May 1991 replacing the earlier scheme, which had operated since 1970. Under the current 1990 scheme, the Board may make ex gratia payments of compensation in any case where the applicant or, in the case of an application by a spouse or dependent, the deceased –

- (i) sustained, in the Island or on a Jersey ship, personal injury directly attributable to a crime of violence (including arson or poisoning) or the apprehension or attempted apprehension of an offender or a suspected offender or to the prevention or attempted prevention of an offence or to the giving of help to a police officer who is engaged in any such activity, or
- (ii) sustained personal injury directly attributable to a crime of violence (including arson or poisoning) in respect of which a court in the Island has jurisdiction by virtue of section 686 or 687 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1894 or such enactments as from time to time replace them.

In 2023 the Board received 42 applications, with £2,000 interim awards and £423,553.50 final awards provided in the 27 resolved cases.

The scheme provides that the Minister must appoint the members of the CICB. The board will consist of not more than twelve members, not less than three of whom shall be advocates or solicitors. The Minister shall appoint one of the members who is an advocate or solicitor of not less than five years' standing as Chair of the Board.

Recruitment of new Members

Further to vacancies arising on the Board, a recruitment campaign was undertaken in February and March 2023 to seek new members in accordance with Government of Jersey recruitment guidelines. This included a Gov.je advert and communications included in Directions, the law society newsletter. Two applications were received, and two individuals were interviewed. Daniel Read was appointed, however has since stated that a role on the board causes conflict due to remuneration received.

The other applicant did not have the required five years qualified as an advocate or solicitor in Jersey, however has now since reached this milestone.

Another applicant has since come forward, which would provide the board with the required resilience, particularly with the recent conflicted case, which required instruction of an independent barrister.

Further to this, it is recommended that the Minister appoint the following individuals as Legal Members of the Board:

- Allana Binnie – Senior Associate at Mourant - [Mourant: Offshore Law Firm | Allana Binnie](#)

Allana is a Senior Associate and Advocate in Mourant's Private Client Litigation Team, and specialises in criminal defence work and family law matters. She also has experience in mental health law, injunctions and assisted with historical child abuse inquiries in both Jersey and Australia.

- Nicholas Miere – Partner at Steenson Nicholls - [Nicholas Mière | Steenson Nicholls LLP](#)

Nicholas is a Jersey Advocate and Partner at Steenson Nicholls. Nicholas' work covers a broad spectrum of civil, commercial and criminal litigation, with a particular emphasis on financial services, contentious trusts, contractual disputes and professional negligence disputes.

These appointments will bring the total membership of the Board to ten members, five of which would be legally qualified.

The term of appointment for all members is an initial 4 year period.