

REPORT: Appointment to the Independent Prison Monitoring Board

20th May 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.

One interviewee was awaiting the outcome of their DBS check and this has now been received, therefore it is recommended that the Minister appoints Sylvia Awori as a Member of the Board. This is the final appointee from this recruitment campaign.

Sylvia is currently an Operational Tax Manager, providing support to customers and front line colleagues. She has a Masters in Business Administration and completed a law degree. Sylvia has also been successful in applying for a role as an Independent Custody Visitor and feels this role will compliment that.

This appointment 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.