

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

COMMITTEE *FOR* HOME AFFAIRS

INDEPENDENT MONITORING PANEL:
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

The States are asked to decide: -

Whether, after consideration of the Policy Letter dated 28th October 2019, of the Committee *for* Home Affairs, they are of the opinion:

- (a) To confirm the appointment of Joanna Susan Hunter as a member of the Independent Monitoring Panel for a period of four years with immediate effect.
- (b) To confirm the appointment of Jared Harvey as a member of the Independent Monitoring Panel for a period of four years with immediate effect.

The above Propositions have been submitted to Her Majesty's Procureur for advice on any legal or constitutional implications in accordance with Rule 4(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees.

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The Presiding Officer
States of Guernsey
Royal Court House
St Peter Port

28th October 2019

Dear Sir

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this Policy Letter is to obtain confirmation from the States of the appointment by the Committee *for* Home Affairs of 2 additional members to the Independent Monitoring Panel (“the Panel”).

2. Background

- 2.1. The Panel is an independent body made up of members of the public who make unannounced visits to Guernsey Prison. Members provide independent oversight of the day-to-day operations of the Prison and prison conditions, monitor the administration of the prison, the treatment of prisoners and whether the statutory objectives of the prison system are being met, and serve to protect the well-being of prisoners.
- 2.2. At their meeting on 17th July 2019¹ the States confirmed the re-appointment of 6 Panel Members and noted the resignation of one Member. The Committee has recently appointed 2 additional Members in order that there are a sufficient number of Members available properly to discharge the functions of the Panel.
- 2.3. The Committee would like to take this opportunity to put on record its thanks and appreciation to Panel Members for their work and dedication to their roles.

3. Appointment of New Members to the Panel

¹ Item V on Billet d'État No. XIII of 2019

- 3.1. Under section 17 of the Prison (Guernsey) Ordinance, 2013 Panel Members must be appointed by the Committee, subject to confirmation by the States. Appointment is for a period of four years or less. When making Panel appointments, pursuant to paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 3 to the Ordinance, the Committee must have particular regard to the need to “ensure that Panel members have a strong commitment to human rights, have a strong sense of integrity, are able to maintain confidentiality, and have effective communication and listening skills.”
- 3.2. An advertising campaign for the recruitment of panel members was undertaken and designed to reach as many areas of the population as possible.
- 3.3. No formal qualifications are required for membership to the Panel, but the advertisements looked to attract individuals who were fair, objective and non-judgemental. It was expected that potential members would have experience of working with confidential material and the ability to deal with a wide variety of people from different backgrounds.
- 3.4. Following an open and transparent recruitment process, interviews were held and the Committee was impressed with the number, quality, experience and enthusiasm of all candidates. Further to the interview process, the Committee appointed the following individuals as ordinary members of the Panel.

4. Ordinary members – 4 year appointment

- 4.1. Mrs Joanna Susan Hunter has been a special needs teaching assistant for 20 years at Oakvale and Le Murier Schools, and it at present working in a part-time position at Le Murier. Mrs Hunter is a good listener and her experience working with young people with various needs will be of benefit to the Panel. Mrs Hunter demonstrated sound judgement and presented as an approachable person who can communicate confidently and effectively to people of all ages and backgrounds.
- 4.2. Mr Jared Harvey is one of the youngest people to have been recommended for appointment by the Panel. Mr Harvey has recently completed a Business Management undergraduate degree at the University of Birmingham, he has since moved to Guernsey to live with his family on licence. Mr Harvey has an interest in criminal justice reform and is an advocate of rehabilitation. Mr Harvey demonstrated compassion, sensitivity and a sense of justice and fairness and presented a diligent in his duties now at work and previously whilst studying.
- 4.3. Both of the individuals named above were able to identify the challenges facing the prison locally and demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting the role of the Panel and the vision for the prison. The Committee also considers that the

above applicants greatly exceed the criteria in paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 3 to the Ordinance (detailed in paragraph 3.1 above), and it is believed that they will effectively supplement the skills of existing Panel Members to form a cohesive and resilient and professional panel.

5. Compliance with Rule 4

- 5.1 Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees sets out the information which must be included in, or appended to, motions laid before the States.
- 5.2 In accordance with Rule 4(1), the Propositions have been submitted to Her Majesty's Procureur for advice on any legal or constitutional implications. She has advised that there is no reason in law why the Propositions should not to be put into effect / other.
- 5.3 In accordance with Rule 4(4) of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees, it is confirmed that the propositions above have the unanimous support of the Committee.
- 5.4 In accordance with Rule 4(5), the Propositions relate to the duties of the Committee to advise the States and to develop and implement policies on matters relating to its purpose including imprisonment, parole, probation and rehabilitation.

Yours faithfully

M M Lowe
President

M P Leadbeater
Vice-President

V S Oliver
P R Le Pelley
J C S F Smithies