

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

COMMITTEE *FOR* HOME AFFAIRS

INDEPENDENT MONITORING PANEL:
APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS AND NOTIFICATION OF RESIGNATION

The States are asked to decide: -

1. Whether, after consideration of the Policy Letter dated 26th April 2021, of the Committee *for* Home Affairs, they are of the opinion:
 - (a) To confirm the appointment of Susan Henney as a member of the Independent Monitoring Panel for a period of four years from 18th January 2021,
 - (b) To confirm the appointment of Alfia Dance as a member of the Independent Monitoring Panel for a period of four years from 5th February 2021,
 - (c) To confirm the appointment of Andrea Fuller as a member of the Independent Monitoring Panel for a period of four years from 5th February 2021,
 - (d) To confirm the appointment of Kelly Prevel as a member of the Independent Monitoring Panel for a period of four years from 15th March 2021,
 - (e) To confirm the appointment of Nigel Bartlett as a member of the Independent Monitoring Panel for a period of four years from 20th April 2021,
 - (f) To confirm the appointment of Marc Cohen as a member of the Independent Monitoring Panel for a period of four years from 15th March 2021, and
 - (g) To note the resignation of Mr Anthony Talmage with effect from 7th April 2021 as Chair and Member of the Independent Monitoring Panel.

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

26th April 2021

Dear Sir

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this Policy Letter is to obtain confirmation from the States of the appointments made by the Committee *for* Home Affairs ("The Committee") of six new members to the Independent Monitoring Panel ("the Panel") and to formally notify the Assembly of the resignation of the Chairman of the Panel, Mr Anthony Talmage.

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. The Committee would like to take this opportunity to put on record its thanks and appreciation to all existing Panel Members for their commitment and dedication to their roles.

3. Appointment of New Members to the Panel

- 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 within the same year of appointment. Appointment is for a period of four years or less.

- 3.2. 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.”*
- 3.3. An advertising campaign for the recruitment of Panel Members was undertaken in 2020 and following an open and transparent recruitment process, interviews were held.
- 3.4. No formal qualifications are required for membership of the Panel. The Panel looks to attract individuals who are fair, objective and non-judgemental. It is expected that potential members will have some experience of working with confidential information and will have experience dealing with a wide variety of people from different backgrounds.
- 3.5. The Chairman of the Panel considered that all six applicants demonstrated in interview that they met the above criteria and they were recommended for appointment to the Committee.

4. Ordinary members – 4 year appointment

- 4.1. Mrs Alfia Dance is a financial risk officer and has, over the years, worked as a teacher and a trainee solicitor within criminal and immigration law in Australia.
- 4.2. Mrs Susan Henney is an independent social worker with a wealth of experience working in the criminal justice system in Guernsey. Mrs Henney lead the Family Proceedings Advisory Service (FPAS) before setting up her own independent social work business.
- 4.3. Mrs Andrea Fuller is now retired having had a career spanning 25 years at the Healthcare Group. Mrs Fuller has been involved in various charitable work including presiding as Chair of the Cancer Research Branch in Guernsey.
- 4.4. Mrs Kelly Prevel owns and operates a local hairdressing salon and this has given her a wealth of experience dealing with a variety of people from different backgrounds. She has an open mindset and is a keen listener.
- 4.5. Mr Nigel Bartlett is a retired dentist and has experience dealing with people from all walks of life. Mr Bartlett applied for the role as he wishes to make a contribution to the community.
- 4.6. Mr Marc Cohen is a businessman and is Chairman of the Cambridge Alumni Society in Guernsey. Mr Cohen hopes that this role will provide some balance in his day to

day life and he is able to balance his existing commitments to ensure that he is able to dedicate time to the role.

- 4.7. All the applicants demonstrated sound judgement and presented as approachable people who respect confidentiality and had sound listening skills. The applicants were all able to identify and articulate the different 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 believe that the appointments will effectively supplement the skills of the existing five Panel Members to form a cohesive and resilient panel.

5. Resignation of Chairman

- 5.1. Mr Talmage was first appointed as a member of the Panel in January 2015 and was appointed to the role of Chairman in July 2019.
- 5.2. The Committee received formal notification of Talmage's resignation on 8th April 2021.
- 5.3. Schedule 3 to the Prison (Guernsey) Ordinance, 2013 states that *"a Panel Member may resign from office at any time by giving notice in writing to the Committee"*.
- 5.4. Schedule 3 to the Ordinance further states that *'The Committee must notify the States of the resignation or removal from office of the Chairman or any other Panel member at the first available opportunity'* and that *"The validity of any proceedings of the Panel is unaffected by a vacancy in its members, by any defect in the election or appointment of a member or any lack of qualification of a person to act as a member."*
- 5.5. The Panel will appoint a member to act as Chairman at its next meeting on 1st June 2021 and the Committee will inform the States at the earliest opportunity.
- 5.6. The Committee would like to take this opportunity to put on public record its thanks and appreciation to Mr Talmage for his dedication to the role.

6. Compliance with Rule 4

- 6.1 In accordance with Rule 4(1), the Propositions have been submitted to Her Majesty's Procureur for advice on any legal or constitutional implications.
- 6.2 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 majority support of the Committee. (Deputy Le Tissier was not present at the time this Policy Letter was agreed by the Committee).

6.3 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

R G Prow
President

S P J Vermeulen
Vice-President

M P Leadbeater
C J Le Tissier
A W Taylor

P A Harwood
Non-States Member