



Isle of Man
Government
Reil'tys Ellan Vannin

Department of Home Affairs

RHEYNN COOISHYN STHIE

Mrs C Johnson
Chair of the Parole Committee

Minister

Hon Mrs Jane Poole-Wilson, MHK

Department of Home Affairs

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Dear Mrs Johnson

MINISTERIAL RESPONSE TO PAROLE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

Thank you for the Committee's first annual report covering the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all members of the Committee for their continued work and commitment in their important and valued roles and particularly for driving forward improvements in processes, governance and relations with the Department, which this report demonstrates.

As you were aware, this reporting year was concluded with an invited inspection by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) resulting in several areas being identified where improvements should be achieved. As a result, the Department along with the Prison and Probation Service have developed commentary on the HMIP report and an action plan to address each of the priority and key concerns. As you have referenced in your report this will include assessment and management of risk; offence focused interventions and rehabilitation models; meaningful and realistic education programmes and post-release statistical data. All of which in time when improved will assist in the work conducted by the Committee.

In the year 2022/23 it was positive to note that the Department, in consultation with the Committee, created a framework document and finalised directions which set out the aims and functions of the Committee and provided guidance as to how it will operate. In setting out these functions it helps allow the Committee and the Department to work together in a clearer and more aligned manner and allow a level of transparency to the decision-making process to members of the public.

The Committee faced new challenges with two life sentence prisoners being eligible to be considered for parole and the recommendation to release another prisoner on compassionate grounds due to requiring palliative care. The Committee rose to the challenge and with the support of the Prison and Probation Service was able to make an informed recommendation to the Department.

It was encouraging to see the Committee utilising its function to conduct an informal interview with a prisoner prior to making its recommendations to the Department. It is hoped that this will

be more widely used going forward where appropriate, particularly with some of the more complex cases that may arise.

This report represents the positive work of the Committee and also reflects much improved ways of working with both the Prison and Probation Service and the Department. I am pleased to understand that there is open communication so that any issues can be addressed in a timely manner outside of this reporting. However, should the need arise, the Department would of course consider any issues or concerns that may be raised in future Annual Reports to ensure that any areas that the Committee feel need further support can formally be recorded and responded to/acted upon as required.

The Department is looking forward to continuing the positive working relationship with the Parole Committee over the coming years. The Department supports the continued work on developing the relevant policies and procedures that underpin the work of the Committee and particularly the implementation of a new Victim's code in conjunction with Victim Support.

The work of the Committee is greatly appreciated by myself and by the staff and Members of the Department and we are grateful for your ongoing dedication and commitment to the role.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jane Poole-Wilson', written in a cursive style.

Hon. Mrs Jane Poole-Wilson, MHK
Minister for Justice & Home Affairs