

**IN TYNWALD**

**April 2008**

**FOR ORAL ANSWER**

The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Cannan) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -

When interviewing for the post of Prison Governor were you aware that the successful candidate had previously been Governor of Chelmsford Prison (1996-2000) and that during the term of office the Chief Inspector of prisons, Sir David Ramsbotham, had described Chelmsford Prison as a, 'sick prison suffering from some chronic deficiencies and in urgent need of managerial attention'?

---

Mr President

Firstly I believe it is rather sad that the Honourable Member for Michael has felt the need to raise this matter in public when the Officer concerned hasn't even commenced her employment and his unfounded concerns could have been dispelled without the need to publicly debate this matter.

This is particularly so when we have been very fortunate in being able to appoint an officer who has gained a wealth of experience in the United Kingdom Prison Service including governing four prisons and has the skills and expertise to manage the New Prison effectively and efficiently.

In answer to the question posed I was aware that the new Prison Governor had been Governor of Chelmsford Prison but not of the particular report to which the Honourable Member refers, however, I am more than satisfied that the information we received, the extensive interview process, and the guidance from Her Majesties Inspectorate of Prisons was more than adequate to ensure the interview panel could make the right decision on an informed basis. Furthermore, knowledge of this report would not have impacted on our decision.