

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

COMMITTEE *FOR* HOME AFFAIRS

PAROLE REVIEW COMMITTEE – REAPPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

The States are asked to decide:-

Whether, after consideration of the policy letter entitled 'Parole Review Committee – Reappointment of Chairperson' dated 6th April 2022, they are of the opinion:-

1. To approve the re-appointment of Mr Philip John Taylor as Chairperson of the Parole Review Committee for three years, with effect from 1st July 2022.

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PAROLE REVIEW COMMITTEE – REAPPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

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

6th April 2022

Dear Sir

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this Policy Letter is to propose the re-appointment of Mr Philip John Taylor as the Chairperson of the Parole Review Committee ("the PRC").

2 Background

- 2.1 The Parole Review Committee (Guernsey) Law, 1989¹ came into force on 1st December 1989. The PRC works under this legislation, administering the parole scheme locally for persons who receive a custodial sentence from the Royal Court. The PRC's duties are to consider the release on licence of persons whose cases have been referred to it by the Committee *for* Home Affairs ("The Committee"), the recall, if necessary, of persons released on licence, and the conditions to be attached to such licences including the variation or cancellation of such licences. The scheme seeks to protect the public, prevent reoffending and ensure the prisoner's successful reintegration into the community.
- 2.2 The PRC is an independent body made up of members of the local community. This independence is vital for ensuring the good governance of the scheme and the appointment of a strong and committed chair is fundamental to the good organisation and operation of the scheme.

¹ [Parole Review Committee \(Guernsey\) Law, 1989](#)

3 Appointment of a Chairperson

- 3.1 The constitution of the PRC is determined by States' resolution. On 14th December 1989² the States resolved that the Chairperson of the PRC shall be appointed by the States and shall be an independent person, i.e. not a sitting member of the States nor a person holding judicial office, chosen because of their experience and standing in the community. The ordinary members of the PRC are appointed by the Royal Court and are also independent persons (that is, not sitting members of the States nor persons holding judicial office).
- 3.2 The purpose of this independence is to ensure that persons whose cases are considered can be satisfied that decisions will not be swayed by political considerations and will not in any way be a re-sentencing process.
- 3.3 On 30th July, 2003³, the States resolved to set a maximum term of office for members of the Committee of 12 years, except where a person is appointed as Chairperson from amongst the ordinary members, in which case their appointment should be limited to 16 years. In considering the maximum term it was acknowledged that the term should be sufficiently long to ensure continuity of experience and membership.
- 3.4 Mr Philip Taylor was first appointed as an Ordinary Member of the PRC in 2012, he was appointed as the Chairperson in September 2016⁴ and was retrospectively re-appointed in August 2020⁵.
- 3.5 Mr Taylor has demonstrated effective leadership skills in the role; he has a strong sense of integrity, effective communication and listening skills and ensures that all members have the opportunity to contribute. Members of the PRC fully support Mr Taylor's re-appointment as Chairperson.
- 3.6 The Committee is pleased to recommend this reappointment to the Assembly.

4 Compliance with Rule 4

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 In accordance with Rule 4(1):

² Billet d'Etat XVI of 1989

³ [Billet d'Etat XVI of 2003](#)

⁴ [Billet d'Etat XXI of 2016](#)

⁵ [Billet d'Etat XVII of 2020](#)

- a) The proposition contributes to the States' objectives in that the reappointment the Chairperson to the Parole Review Committee will ensure the PRC can appropriately discharge its statutory duties.
- b) In preparing the proposition there has been no consultation with stakeholders.
- c) The proposition has been submitted to Her Majesty's Procureur for advice on any legal or constitutional implications.
- d) There are no financial implications to the States of carrying the proposal into effect.

4.3 In accordance with Rule 4(2):

- a) The proposition relates 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 to the Committee's.
- b) The proposition has the majority support of the Committee. Please note that Deputy Taylor recused himself when the proposition was considered by the Committee.

Yours faithfully

R G Prow
President

S P J Vermeulen
Vice-President

S E Aldwell
L McKenna

P A Harwood
Non-States Member