



Ministry
of Justice

Sir Robert Neill MP
Chair of the Justice Committees
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

The Right Honourable
Alex Chalk KC MP
Lord Chancellor & Secretary
of State for Justice

MoJ Ref: 110873

4 December 2023

Dear Sir Bob,

HIS MAJESTY'S CHIEF INSPECTOR OF PROBATION - RECRUITMENT

Following correspondence in May 2023 agreeing the plans to recruit a new HM Chief Inspector of Probation (HMCIP), I am now writing to confirm that I have selected Martin Jones, currently Chief Executive of the Parole Board, as the preferred candidate for appointment to the role.

The appointments process has been run in accordance with the Governance Code on Public Appointments and the role is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Mr Jones brings significant experience of public service and working in the justice system. I consider that Mr Jones has the skills, experience, and qualities to meet the challenges currently facing the inspectorate and is capable of delivering the vital public interest role of independently assessing the effectiveness and quality of probation and youth justice services.

At interview, the assessment panel found that Mr Jones demonstrated a clear understanding of both the wider context in which the Inspectorate operates, and of the role of HMCIP. They noted that his considerable experience of effectively leading a large organisation of comparable complexity to HMI Probation and his results-driven approach will support the successful leadership of the Inspectorate and will enhance performance and outcomes in the Inspectorate and wider probation and youth justice services.

Mr Jones has not declared any relevant interests or political activity. Confirmation of this, and information about the campaign, including the role criteria, tenure and remuneration, panel membership and campaign timeline are set out in **Annex A**. A copy of Mr Jones's CV is at **Annex B**.

Candidates were informed prior to application that the position was subject to scrutiny by the Justice Select Committee. I understand a hearing is scheduled for 12 December and I will give careful consideration to the Committee's report before deciding whether to proceed with the appointment.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON ALEX CHALK KC MP
LORD CHANCELLOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR JUSTICE