

Equality & Human Rights Commission

PW&SD Yard | The Castle | Jamestown | STHL 1ZZ

Telephone: 22133

www.humanrightsthelena.org



Equality and Human Rights Commission inquiry into the condition of detention at Her Majesty's Prison, Jamestown, St Helena

Introduction

The Equality and Human Rights Commission, having noted reports concerning conditions at the Her Majesty's Prison Jamestown, St Helena, has decided to conduct an inquiry. This is in accordance with Section 15 of the Equality and Human Rights Ordinance 2015, under which the Commission may conduct an inquiry into a matter relating to any of its duties. The inquiry will be carried out as detailed in procedures set out in Schedule 2 of the Ordinance.

Scope of the Inquiry

The Commission will examine the human rights of prisoners, with a particular focus on their conditions of detention. It will consider a number of areas, including, among others:

- the physical infrastructure of the building;
- the size and conditions of cells;
- sanitisation;
- temperature control and ventilation;
- access to food and water;
- clothing;
- washing facilities;
- access to medical treatment;
- recreational facilities and opportunities for exercise;
- access to complaints handling mechanisms;
- Protection from violence.

Aims

The purpose of the inquiry, is to assess the conditions of detention in the prison against relevant human rights standards, including:

The European Convention on Human Rights

- Article 2 – the right to life;
- Article 3 – the prohibition of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment;
- Article 8 – the right to respect of private and family life;
- Article 14 – the prohibition on discrimination.

The Constitution of St Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha

- Part 2 Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of the Individual, with a specific focus on Clause 11 - Protection of right of prisoners to humane treatment.

A final report, including recommendations will be published by the Commission and made publicly available. Copies of the report will be submitted, to St Helena Government, the United Kingdom Government, and the United Nations, pursuant to Commission's functions as a National Human Rights Institutions operating in accordance with the provision of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 48/134 (the Paris Principles).

Time Scales

The inquiry begins on 19th March 2018 and is scheduled to be completed by 11th May 2018.

Members of the public, with relevant experience of the prison are welcome to meet with the Inquiry Panel to give evidence. All information will be treated in confidence.

For an appointment with the Panel, further information and/or a copy of the full Terms of Reference of the Inquiry please contact Mrs Carol Thompson, Executive Manager, Equality & Human Rights Commission, on Tel 22133 or email admin@humanrightsthelena.org .

Catherine Harris Cranfield
Chair of Commissioners