

MINISTRY PAPER

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROLE BOARD FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 2018 TO MARCH 31, 2019

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The matter for tabling in the Houses of Parliament is the Annual Report of the Parole Board for the period April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Parole Board was established in 1978 pursuant to Sections 3 and 4 of the Parole Act. Its statutory obligation is concerned with the fulfilment of the activities relating to the parole process.

2.2 The Parole Board is authorized to consider applications for parole, and grant or refuse such applications in accordance with the Parole Act. Additionally, the Board has the authority to revoke the parole of parolees who breached the conditions of their Parole Order.

3.0 OPERATIONAL REVIEW OF THE PAROLE BOARD

3.1 The Parole Board deliberated on 89 applications for the 2018/2019 financial year (as detailed in the Annual Report attached as **APPENDIX I**). The decisions which were taken are shown in Table 1.

DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE PAROLE BOARD FOR THE 2018/2019 FINANCIAL YEAR

Table 1

DECISIONS	NUMBERS
Applicants granted parole	69
Applications Refused	13
Applications Deferred	7
Total Cases Referred	89

- 3.2 Of the total number of applicants considered for parole, the majority (37) were convicted for firearm related offences, of which 30 were granted parole. Murder was the second highest offence for which 15 applicants were referred to the Board and 11 were granted parole.
- 3.3 The average time served by the parolees during the 2018/2019 financial year was 13.8 years. From the 69 applicants granted parole, 19 (27%) were given sentences of 11 to 15 years, and served 1 to 5 years prior to their release on parole.
- 3.4 For the review period, 22 of the 69 parolees were to reside in the corporate area, while 14 were to reside in the parish of St. Catherine and 11 in St. Ann.
- 3.5 The Parole Order of two (2) parolees were revoked for breaches of the conditions of their Parole for the period. The Board also recommended four (4) parolees to the Governor General for consideration to have their sentences reprieved.
- 3.6 At the end of the 2018/2019 financial year, there were 517 parolees being supervised by Probation Aftercare Officers across the island.

4.0 BOARD MEMBERS COMPENSATION

- 4.1 The emoluments for the members of the Parole Board are outlined at Appendix VII of the Annual Report for the period under review. It should be noted that the Parole Board does not manage its own budget; but its operational expenses are incorporated into the budget and expenditure statements of the Ministry of National Security. Accordingly, audited financial statements are not required for the Parole Board.



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