



**The Commissioner for
Public Appointments**

William Shawcross CVO
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Kit Malthouse MP
Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Probation
Ministry of Justice, 102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ

By email: *Correspondence.MC.KitMalthouse@justice.gov.uk*

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 21 December outlining your intention to extend several members of the Parole Board.

I note that my predecessor was consulted in October 2020 on a number of exceptional appointments without competition, and extensions of tenure, for the creation of a Covid-19 taskforce to deal with the backlog of work for the Parole Board. I recognise the pressures on this taskforce dealing with a 25 percent increase in the number of cases requiring an initial paper assessment, and your need to ensure that prisoners who who are safe to do so are released without undue delay.

I agree with the extension of the four members appointed under Section 3.3 of the Code last year for a further 12 months - Rick Evans; Melanie Miller; Emma Pusill and Carol Swaffer.

I also thank you for your notification under section 3.6 of the Code, of your intention to retain the talent of two members who have already served ten years on the Parole Board for a further 12 months - Michael Crewe and Margaret Dunne.

I am satisfied that the requisite performance appraisals and due diligence checks have been completed for all the Parole Board members you intend to retain for the Taskforce.

I agree that the continuation of the task force for a limited period is a pragmatic response to the circumstances arising from the pandemic, but hope that the backlog can be dealt with swiftly, with the members able to step down and new competitions held to attract new members.

William Shawcross
Commissioner for Public Appointments