

 **Lothian and Borders Police Board**

Custody Visiting Scheme – Reappointment of Custody Visitors and Appointment of New Custody Visitor

31 January 2011

Purpose of report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to confirm the reappointment of two Custody Visitors following the conclusion of their second three year appointment period and appoint a new Custody Visitor from the reserve list to fill a vacancy.

Background

- 2 Custody Visitors are members of the community authorised by police authorities to visit police stations to satisfy themselves as to the care and welfare of people detained in police custody.
- 3 In April 2001 the Board introduced a pilot Custody Visiting Scheme covering the City of Edinburgh. Following the successful completion of the pilot project the scheme was expanded to cover the full Police Board area.

Reappointment of Custody Visitors

- 4 To support the expansion of the scheme on 14 March 2005 the Board appointed six Custody Visitors for a three year period. Three were subsequently reappointed for a further three year period to March 2011 and one was reappointed until June 2008 after indicating that he wished to resign at this time.
- 5 All three visitors who were appointed until March 2011 remain (Judy Cavaroli, Hazel Paxton and John Webster). Judy Cavaroli and Hazel Paxton have agreed to continue for a third three year appointment whilst John Webster has indicated that he does not wish to continue for a further three years. As a result there is now a vacancy for a Custody Visitor.
- 6 Judy Cavaroli and Hazel Paxton have participated fully in the Custody Visiting Scheme since their appointments, making regular visits and attending Custody Visitors' meetings/training sessions as required.

Appointment of New Custody Visitors

- 7 In November 2009, the Board gave approval to undertake a recruitment campaign for Custody Visitors. In April 2010 seven new Custody Visitors were appointed and a list of reserve candidates was established. Since then three Custody Visitors have been appointed from the reserve list. I am now seeking authority to appoint Janet Clark from the reserve list.
- 8 Initially, new Custody Visitors are appointed for a six-month probation period and, following satisfactory completion, for a further 2½ years. The Board is requested to delegate the authority to confirm Janet Clark's appointment following the successful completion of the probation period to me in consultation with the Convener.

Recommendation

- 9 The Board is invited to re-appoint Judy Cavaroli and Hazel Paxton as Custody Visitors for a further three year term until 14 March 2014, subject to the receipt of a satisfactory enhanced disclosure check.
- 10 To appoint Janet Clark as a Custody Visitor for a three year period to 31 January 2014, subject to the receipt of acceptable references and a full background check.
- 11 To delegate authority to me, in consultation with the Convener, to confirm Janet Clark's appointment following the successful completion of the probation period and the receipt of satisfactory references and a successful background check.



Sue Bruce
Chief Executive and Clerk

Appendices	None.
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Background Papers	None.