

World Day against the Death Penalty 2022: Joint statement to the OSCE

Mr. Chair,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, the United Kingdom and my own country Switzerland.

The 10th of October marked the 20th World Day against the Death Penalty. We welcome the fact that the global trend towards the abolition of capital punishment continues unabated in many parts of the world, including the OSCE region. At the launch of the World Day, twenty years ago, only 76 states had abolished the death penalty. Today, 110 states have done so. In this light, we commend Kazakhstan for the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. As of today, only two participating States continue to apply capital punishment: Belarus and the United States.

In the case of Belarus, we are deeply concerned by the extension of the application of the death penalty for what is deemed “attempted acts of terrorism”. This step is contrary to Belarus’ obligations under international law. We therefore call on the authorities of Belarus to reverse this decision.

Mr. Chair,

The use of the death penalty represents a violation of human rights, human dignity and personal integrity everywhere in the world and under all circumstances. It does not serve as a greater deterrence to potential offenders than other severe punishments, and hence has no impact on the prevention of crime, violence and violent extremism.

As we were reminded at the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference, it is crucial to continue involving civil society actors in the campaign towards the universal abolition of capital punishment. Their contribution has been instrumental in the progress achieved thus far.

Our countries remain committed to the universal abolition of the death penalty and call on all States, within the OSCE and beyond, to completely abolish capital punishment or, as a first step, establish a moratorium on its use. In this regard, we encourage all participating States to vote in favour of the UN resolution calling for a moratorium on capital punishment which is being negotiated at the UN General Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Recruitment for Higher Scientific Officer

News story

Details of a vacancy for a Higher Scientific Officer within the Supply team.



Job Title

Higher Scientific Officer in Supply Team

Grade

HS0

Salary & Pension

£32,557 – £35,888 per annum with Pension Scheme

Annual Leave entitlement

Commencing at 25 days

Role

The role is responsible for producing and updating assessment reports for marketing authorisations.

You will also assess applications for veterinary medicines and provide sound technical advice to the biological and pharmaceutical divisions of the VMD.

How to apply

You must make your application on the [Civil Service Jobs website](#) where you will find a full job description including salary details.

Closing Date

9th November 2022

Published 13 October 2022

[Strong progress towards a Child First youth justice system](#)

Today we published our [Annual Report and Accounts for 2021 to 2022](#). This was my first annual report as Chief Executive Officer of the Youth Justice Board (YJB), and I would like to place on record my thanks to all those who have helped produce this report and ensure its accuracy.

The opportunity to lead the Youth Justice Board as Chief Executive is enormously exciting, and there is nothing more important for me than improving the life chances of children. When I was working in adult prisons, I saw first-hand the consequences of failure and I believe, as a result, you will not find anyone more determined to ensure we are effective in keeping children out of the system and supporting them to live happy, safe, crime-free lives.

Our activity over the past year was yet again set against the backdrop of the pandemic. At the YJB, we continued to follow a fully remote operating model from March 2020 up to January 2022. Following consultation with our staff we subsequently developed a hybrid model, enabling our staff to return to face-to-face working, where appropriate, whilst allowing the organisation to attract and support diverse talent with an increase in national rather than London-based contracts.

Despite us seeing the easing of COVID-19 restrictions across England and Wales, the challenges for both children and the sector were still evident, and we have yet to see the full impact this has had on their lives and futures. Reduced access to education and other critical support services, increased trauma and mental illness, fewer opportunities for safeguarding and more opportunities for online exploitation all form a worrying reality for children and those across the sector.

Of course, we welcome the past year's continued falls in the number of children entering the justice system and those who received a caution or sentence. Reoffending rates decreased again, and the youth custody population stands at an all-time low. But there is no room for complacency: as highlighted recently in a review by the National Audit Office, we have serious grounds to expect a worsening of this picture in the immediate future, with a potential doubling of children in custody by 2024. Long term

impacts of the pandemic, combined with the economic shocks that have followed it, seem likely to make far more children far more at risk of coming into the criminal justice system. The YJB will grasp with both hands the challenge of ensuring that the gains made in recent years are sustained.

But, while I welcome these reductions, overwhelmingly I was saddened by yet more evidence of the shocking disparity for children from ethnic minorities. In particular, children with Black and Mixed ethnicities are significantly overrepresented at every stage in the youth justice system. We have undertaken a wide range of activity over the past year to tackle this issue which includes commissioning two research projects with a focus on disproportionality, sharing area level detail on disparity with Police and Crime Commissioners and taking forward an initiative to get children from ethnic minorities into employment. We have also continued to work with our partners, such as the Magistrates Association, to help tackle these disparities, including the development of a checklist for magistrates, to further guard against any potential bias in decision-making.

I was pleased to see that strong progress was made towards our vision of a Child First youth justice system. In essence, we want a system which treats children as children and supports them to become the best version of themselves.

We've never been under any illusions about how ambitious this goal is and recognise that it will take a concerted effort from us and all our partners. Nevertheless, we are up for the challenge and the potential benefits to children and our communities alike far exceed any drawbacks. Significant activity over the past year includes work in Wales to develop trauma informed approaches and services in support of its Youth Justice Blueprint. Also, across both England and Wales we commissioned a joint prevention and diversion project to help us increase our understanding and oversight of how this work is delivered by youth justice services.

This year we also took the opportunity to review the pathfinder model that was introduced in 2018. The review found that the pathfinder model was a worthwhile element of sector improvement work. It was also clear that the underlying principles of pathfinders were sound and the introduction of a formal selection process would improve the model further. All current pathfinders will continue as planned and we are designing the selection process for the next pathfinders. We are working to have the new approach in place ready for the 2023/24 financial year.

In December 2021, we secured Board approval for an exciting new initiative to maximise our impact, rebalance how we deliver our statutory functions and change our focus from being driven by risk to being driven by benefits. Known as our 'new sense of purpose', this change programme will allow a significant review of our current position and consider how we deploy our people, manage processes, provide advice and invest tax-payers money, including the youth justice grant.

Finally, I would like to thank YJB staff and our colleagues and partners across the system for the welcome shown to me as I started my new role. I

remain in awe of your relentless determination to improve the lives of children in the youth justice system and all that you have achieved over the past year.

[Unique opportunity for healthcare professionals to influence future MHRA safety communications and safety reporting systems](#)

Press release

Healthcare professionals asked to share their views on how they want to receive safety information from the UK medicines and medical devices regulator

**How can we help
you deliver the best
care for patients?**



Healthcare professionals and their professional bodies have a unique opportunity to share their views and influence the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's (MHRA) safety communications and safety reporting systems.

A 14-week public consultation has been launched today to enable healthcare professionals across the UK to have their say on how they wish to receive vital safety information, how they'd like to be engaged, and to feedback on the Yellow Card safety reporting system. Views expressed during the consultation will support healthcare professionals to deliver the best care to patients.

The MHRA is the UK regulator of medicines and medical devices and its engagement with healthcare professionals is crucial in helping get safe and effective medicines and medical devices to patients, in ensuring that patients are adequately informed of the benefits and risks and that safety concerns are reported and can be acted on quickly.

General practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, midwives, specialty care doctors, technicians and other registered medical professionals, including professional bodies and Royal Colleges, are asked to provide views on four key areas. These are: safety reporting systems; MHRA advice and regulatory decisions; awareness and understanding of the MHRA's safety role; and how easy it is for healthcare professionals to share their views and expertise with the Agency.

Dr June Raine, MHRA Chief Executive, said:

All healthcare professionals want to deliver the best outcomes for patients, and we share this goal. Effective engagement and communication with healthcare professionals are therefore vital for the MHRA to support healthcare professionals and patients to make informed decisions about care and treatment.

It is crucial for us to understand how we can build on and improve our safety communications and reporting systems, to better support healthcare decisions.

We want to learn from a wide range of healthcare professionals and use this to develop a new approach that improves how safety information and reporting systems are communicated and used.

I want to encourage every healthcare professional and representative organisation to respond to this consultation. Learning from your experiences and your views on what we need to improve will give us a clear direction on how to tailor our engagement most effectively.

[Details about the consultation, including how to take part](#)

Notes to Editors

Published 13 October 2022

Disposal of marine pyrotechnics from the pleasure vessel sector to change

This will replace the voluntary and temporary scheme which His Majesty's Coastguard has been providing since 2010 from 17 of its stations and the RNLI at its headquarters in Poole, Dorset.

The new arrangements, supported by both British Marine and the Royal Yachting

Association, will provide a website showing links to businesses offering disposal services across the UK.

On the 31 December 2022, the current HM Coastguard scheme will end, and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has been working with Department for Transport and the sector to find a service of the same standard to replace it.

Claire Hughes, Director of His Majesty's Coastguard, the frontline emergency service of the MCA said she welcomed the innovative approach from the industry. She said:

This is a very important breakthrough and I'm very grateful to British Marine and the Royal Yachting Association together with the wider marine and waste disposal industries for working to find and provide a solution to this ongoing challenge.

Providing disposal services for these redundant marine pyrotechnics is really important as they can put public safety and the marine and coastal environment at risk.

Also, by doing this, the industry is helping and supporting HM Coastguard by making sure we can be fully focussed on saving lives at sea and supporting coastal communities in making our coast and waters a safer place for all.

The new arrangements, which will continue to build over time, will offer solutions to not only boatowners, but also provide guidance and advice to businesses, such as yachting and boating clubs, chandlers, marinas and boatyards, who may see business opportunities in offering their members and customers local solutions.

Although HM Coastguard will continue to receive old flares from the public until the end of the year, the new arrangements will be in operation from now to provide an overlap and resilience.