



Ministry of Justice

Review of the Parole Board Rules

The Parole Board for England and Wales is established under the Criminal Justice Act 2003. It is an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB). Its role is to protect the public by carrying out risk assessments to decide whether prisoners can be safely released into the community.

Under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 the Secretary of State has the power to make procedural rules about the proceedings of the Parole Board, including requiring cases to be dealt with at prescribed times.

The Parole Board Rules were last updated in 2016 and cover matters including process for the referral of cases to the Parole Board, the appointment of Parole Board panels, information before the Board, the Board's powers to make directions, adjournments and deferrals and also the requirements for hearings. The full Rules are available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2016/1041/contents/made>.

This review will consider each of the Parole Board Rules and the case for any changes to improve the operation of the Parole Board. It will take into account the independence of the Parole Board and examine all 27 Parole Board Rules, and whether there should be any new Rules, including:

1. The evidence that is required to be put to the Board when they consider cases
2. The parameters for paper or oral hearings
3. The time limits set for each stage of the process
4. The means of enforcing Parole Board directions
5. Whether the rules should set requirements for the composition of Parole Board panels
6. The rules on disclosure and non-disclosure of evidence
7. How to provide for public access to Parole Board hearings, information about the panel members who make Parole Board decisions and any further changes to the transparency of the Parole Board
8. The introduction of rules to provide for a new reconsideration mechanism for Parole Board decisions (following public consultation)
9. Assurance of Parole Board decisions and processes