



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO SERVE AS A JUSTICE OF APPEAL IN THE PITCAIRN ISLANDS COURT OF APPEAL

Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands are a United Kingdom Overseas Territory. Pitcairn is the only inhabited island in the group.

This is a call for expressions of interest to serve as a Justice of Appeal in the Pitcairn Islands Court of Appeal. The minimum qualifications are:

1. Being, or having been, a judge of a court with unlimited jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters in some part of the Commonwealth or in Ireland, or a court having jurisdiction in appeals from such a court; or
2. Being entitled to practice as an advocate in such a court, and having been so entitled for not less than seven years.

An appointee would need to demonstrate:

- Exceptional legal ability, including sound knowledge of the law of a commonwealth jurisdiction and experience of its application
- Honesty, integrity, impartiality, and good judgement
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to absorb and analyse facts and law in a diverse range of cases
- Awareness of cultural and gender issues

By way of background, the Pitcairn Constitution establishes the Pitcairn Court of Appeal. There is a right of appeal from the Court of Appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in some cases. The Court of Appeal has jurisdiction to hear appeals from the Pitcairn Supreme Court, which under the Constitution has original and unlimited jurisdiction in civil cases and serious criminal cases.

The current Pitcairn judiciary are, with the exception of the on-Island Magistrate and the Privy Council, resident in New Zealand. So, too, are the Pitcairn Attorney General, Public Prosecutor, and Public Defender.

Cases in the Pitcairn Island Court of Appeal can be expected to be infrequent. To date, hearings of the Court of Appeal have been conducted by way of video-link from New Zealand. If travel to the Island were to be required, this would typically involve an absence from New Zealand for either 12 or 19 days (for a three day or a 10 day stay), including a 36-hour open sea voyage with transfer to the Island by longboat. Due to the COVID pandemic this travel time is currently longer, but the expectation is that this will revert to the previous format sometime in 2022. There is a doctor on the Island.

Remuneration is on the basis of a daily rate while performing judicial duties, a reduced rate for additional travel time, and travel allowances.

Expressions of interest (with a full curriculum vitae) may be made electronically to the Deputy Governor of Pitcairn Islands, Alasdair Hamilton, at alsdair.hamilton@fcdo.gov.uk by 13 August 2021.