



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO SERVE AS A SENIOR MAGISTRATE FOR THE PITCAIRN ISLANDS

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 Senior Magistrate in the Pitcairn Islands Magistrate's Court. The minimum qualifications are:

1. Being qualified in law; and
2. Having practised law in any Commonwealth country for not less than five years.

Experience in Pitcairn Islands, or other small jurisdictions or communities would be an advantage.

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 Judicature (Courts) Ordinance establishes the Magistrate's Court, as a subordinate court with limited original jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases. The Magistrate's that may exercise the powers of the Magistrate's Court include one Island Magistrate, and a number of Senior Magistrates. Magistrates usually sit with assessors drawn from the local population. Senior Magistrates also have a role in advising the Island Magistrate. Magistrates are appointed by the Governor and tenure is in accordance with section 55 of the Constitution.

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.

Pitcairn's population is fewer than 50 people and cases in the Pitcairn Island Magistrate's Court can be expected to be infrequent. They are able to be conducted by way of video-link from New Zealand but could also, depending on the nature of the case, require travel to the Island. Travel to the Island typically involves an absence from New Zealand for either 12 or 19 days (for a three day or a 10 day stay), which includes a 36 hour open sea voyage with transfer to the Island by longboat. There is a doctor on the Island.

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

Expressions of interest (with a full curriculum vitae) may be made electronically to the Attorney General of Pitcairn Islands, Simon Mount QC, at simon.mount@bankside.co.nz by 25 March 2019.