

THE POLICE AND JUDICIAL SECRETARIAT

Police

By Section 129(1) of the Constitution of Jamaica, there shall be a Police Service Commission for Jamaica; consisting of a Chairman and such number of members, as the Governor General acting on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, may from time to time decide. Members are appointed for a period of up to five (5) years.

Regulation 4 of the Police Service Regulations, 1961, states:

“The Chief Personnel Officer shall with the approval of the Police Service Commission, appoint an officer on the staff of the Services Commissions to perform duties of Secretary to the Police Service Commission.”

The Police Service Commission is required to make recommendations to the Governor General in respect to:

- Appointments and/or promotions of members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force of and above the rank of Inspector.
- Confirmation of appointments of and above the rank of Inspector.
- Retirements - general, ill-health, age, pre-mature retirements.
- Retirement in the public interest.
- Disciplinary proceedings and punishment against members of and above the rank of Inspector.
- Appeals of all ranks.
- Selection of officers and members for training courses and study leave.

The Governor-General, acting on the recommendation of the Police Service Commission shall appoint members from the rank of Inspector of Police up to the rank of Commissioner of Police. The Commissioner of Police has delegated authority to appoint members of the Force from the rank of Constable up to the rank of Sergeant.

Judicial

The Judicial Service Commission is constituted under Section 111 of the Jamaica (Constitution) Order in Council, 1962, the relevant portion of which reads as follows:-

“There shall be a Judicial Service Commission for Jamaica. The members of the Judicial Service Commission shall be: The Chief Justice who shall be Chairman, the President of the Court of Appeal, the Chairman of the Public Service Commission and three (3) other members.”

These members are appointed by the Governor General by instrument under the Broad Seal, acting on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition. Two (2) of these members are nominated by the General Legal Council, none of whom is in active practice as an Attorney-at-Law.

This Commission advises the Governor General on matters concerning appointments, promotions, acting appointments, transfers, study leave and separation of the Judiciary, that is, Judges of the Court of Appeal, Puisne Judges, Resident Magistrates, Registrar of the Court of Appeal and Registrar of the Supreme Court. The Judicial Service Regulations, 1961, outlines the functions of the Commission in the areas of appointment, discipline, training, retirement, and interdiction.

Orders 97-102 of the Constitution address the appointment of the Judges of the Supreme Court.

Orders 103-109 of the Constitution address the appointment of Judges of the Court of Appeal.