

8 November 2018

Mr J Luke  
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Dear Mr Luke

**OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST-JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (Ref: 71345)**

Thank you for your email of 10 October 2018 asking if the Ministry of Justice monitors Justices of the Peace in the performance of their duties.

The Ministry is responsible for co-ordinating the appointment process for Justices of the Peace, providing funding for training and dealing with serious complaints against Justices. It does not monitor the day to day activities of Justices of the Peace and, given that there are almost 8000 Justices, it would not be possible to do so. Further, given the voluntary nature of the role, such oversight would be unwarranted.

You have asked about inactive Justices of the Peace and whether they can be removed from office. A Justice can be removed from office for reasons including neglect or refusing to perform his or her functions as a Justice. However, since 2007 there has been the status Justice of the Peace "Retired" which has allowed Justices to withdraw from their duties while retaining that honorific. To date over 1800 have taken that option.

With regards to numbers of Justices of the Peace in an area, the Ministry has no role to play. There is a responsibility on Members of Parliament to ensure that there are sufficient JPs in their electorate. Local Justice of the Peace Associations can also provide useful information in that area.

Yours sincerely



Jeff Orr  
Chief Legal Counsel