

Handout for List of Suggested Questions in an Interview

The Visit

1. You've had an informal tour of the prison – to what extent did it match your expectation of what a prison is like?
2. It's not unusual to feel nervous when you go into a prison for the first time. What aspects of the visit surprise or alarmed you? What did you find most interesting? Why?
3. How did you first become interested in joining an Independent Monitoring Board?

The Role of the Board

4. From what you saw during the visit and what you've read in the application pack, what is your perception of the role of Board members?
5. What sort of experience have you had which you think might help you with the work of the Board?
6. A lot of issues that prisoners may bring to you might seem trivial – how would you handle that?

Personal Qualities

7. What strengths do you think that you might bring to the work of the Board?
8. Could you give an example of a situation in which you've had to be particularly tenacious in trying to solve a problem involving other people.
9. What is your experience of working with other people in a team?
10. People outside might ask you how you can work with prisoners, some of whom may have committed some terrible crimes. How do you feel about that?
11. You've seen the sort of time commitment which might be required. How do you see that fitting in with other aspects of your life?

Personal and Career background

12. Explore any relevant points from the application form in respect of the candidate's career or personal interests.

General

13. What is the reaction of your family and friends to the idea of you joining an IMB?
14. Is there anything in your private or working life which, if it became generally known, could bring the Board or the prison/IRC into disrepute?