



Article “Meet our Commissioners: Dr Kathryn Chamberlain”

The role of the Commissioner is pivotal within the Jersey Care Commission (the Commission), to ensure the success of its health and social care objectives. Each Commissioner has a varied background across health and social care and are highly qualified in their respective fields.

Dr Kathryn Chamberlain was Chief Executive of the Independent Monitoring Authority for Citizen’s Rights Agreements, protecting the rights of EU citizens and families. Her professional training is as a statistician having gained her PhD in mathematical statistics from the University of Cardiff, Wales and has spent many years working in both governmental and health and social care settings. She joined the Commission in July 2023.

Kathryn began her career with the Audit Commission where she undertook value-for-money studies in social services departments and healthcare bodies across Wales and parts of England for 10 years. Here, she undertook reviews including pathology services; community health services; child and adolescent mental health services; operating theatres; management of medical staffing; preparation for joint reviews of social care; and reviews of governance and communications allowed her to build an in-depth knowledge of many areas of health and care services.

This background provided her with a solid foundation in her next career stage which took her to set up a new body, the Local Government Data Unit. This provided her with her first experience of setting up a new service unit.

With her expertise in mathematical statistics, Kathryn then joined the Welsh Government as Chief Statistician. During this time her focus was on collating evidence, potentially conflicting, and using this to draw conclusions and provide advice to policy-makers and decision-makers. To do this she needed to bring together Social Research, Economics, Geographical Information and the Library as the Head of Knowledge and Analytical Services.

Following this she moved into her next role as Chief Executive of Healthcare Inspectorate Wales. During this time her team introduced new methodologies for undertaking inspections of acute health services and mental health services.

Kathryn’s experience with Healthcare Inspectorate Wales reflects closely the approach adopted by the Commission, allowing her to apply her seven years of experience there to the work undertaken today. Often her work with the Healthcare Inspectorate Wales would require the organisation to seek external specialists to participate in the inspections to underpin the inspection's credibility and provide the necessary independence. These inspections would also capture the patient's perspective as part of the process, which the Commission also applies to all inspections.

Most recently, Kathryn set up the Independent Monitoring Authority for the Citizens' Rights Agreements following the UK's departure from the EU. Her work through the Independent Monitoring Authority allowed her to take her expertise in regulation beyond the health and care sphere into holding government and public services to account for the way in which they were implementing the Agreements.

Kathryn joined the Commission this year to continue to contribute and build her skills in the regulated health and social care sector. Her background and expertise adds value to the Commission's objectives, particularly as the scope of operations expand. In particular, coming from a background of working in Wales which is a small and interconnected area, Kathryn understands the focus that is required on maintaining independence and objectivity in a small community such as Jersey.

Commenting on what the Commission brings to the people of Jersey, Kathryn said

"The people of Jersey deserve to know that the services they receive are safe, effective and well-managed. The Jersey Care Commission provides an important source of assurance and works hard to promote improvement and good practice across the island wherever appropriate. I will fully support the Commission in raising awareness and the profile of its important work"

