

Parole Board of England and Wales

Martin Jones

CEO

10 May 2018

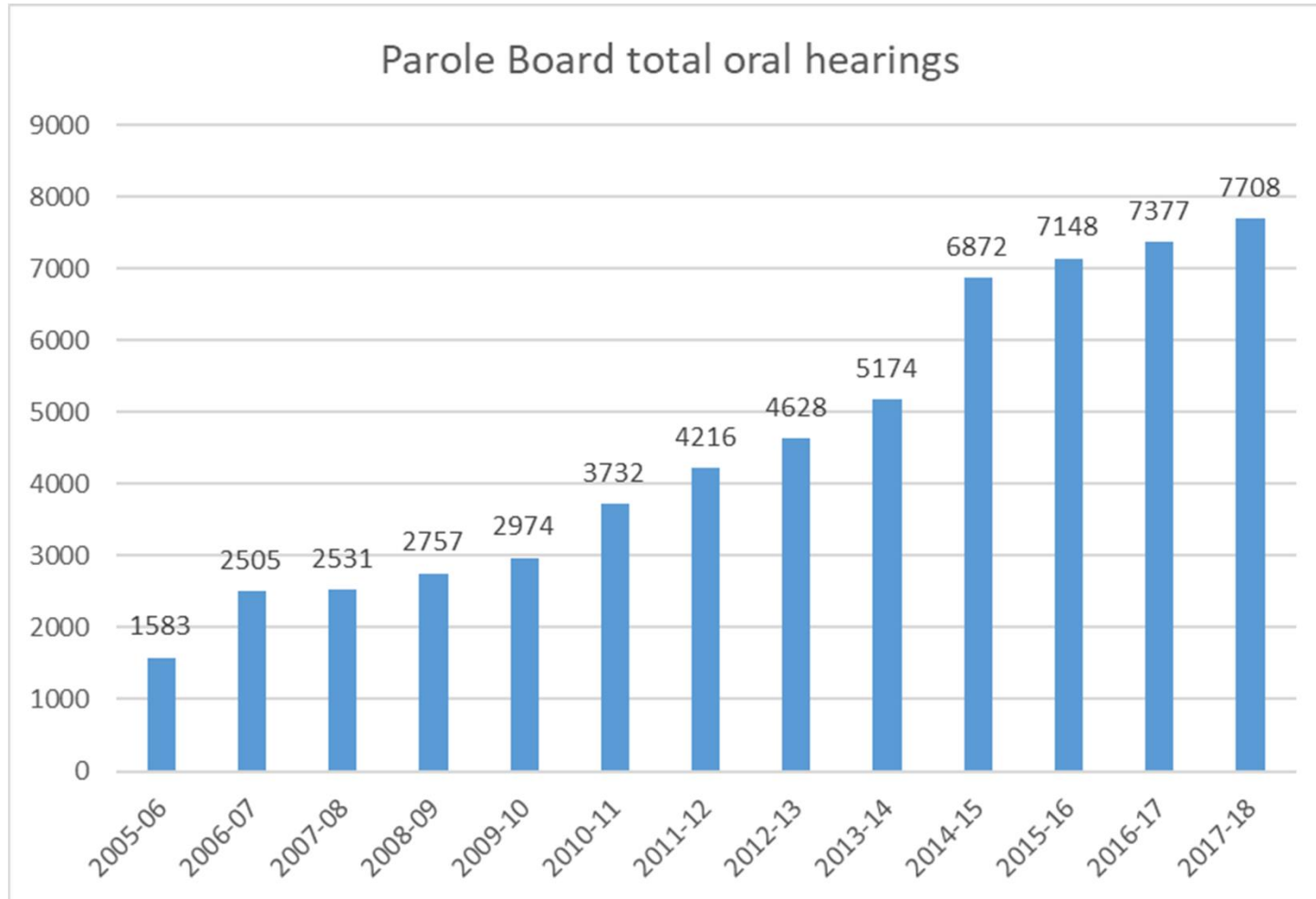
Our mission statement ...

The Parole Board is an independent body that works with its criminal justice partners to **protect the public** by risk assessing prisoners to decide whether they can be safely released into the community

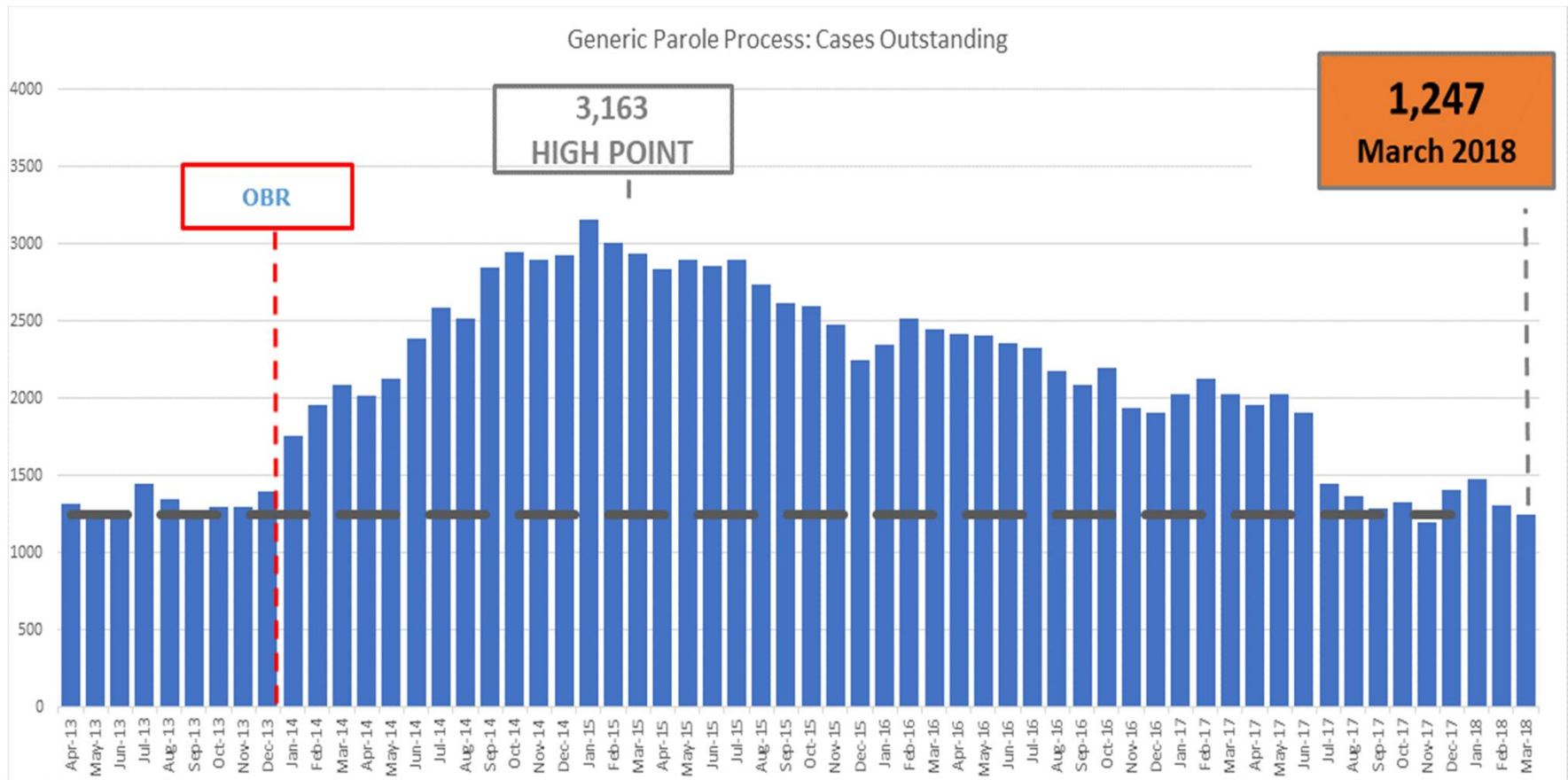
Where we are today

- 2017-18 represents the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Parole Board under the Criminal Justice Act 1967
- The Board is an **independent** court like body which **orders** the release of prisoners
- We deal with 25,000 cases
- 28% of the prison population are entitled to a parole review at some stage in their sentence

How parole work has changed over the last decade



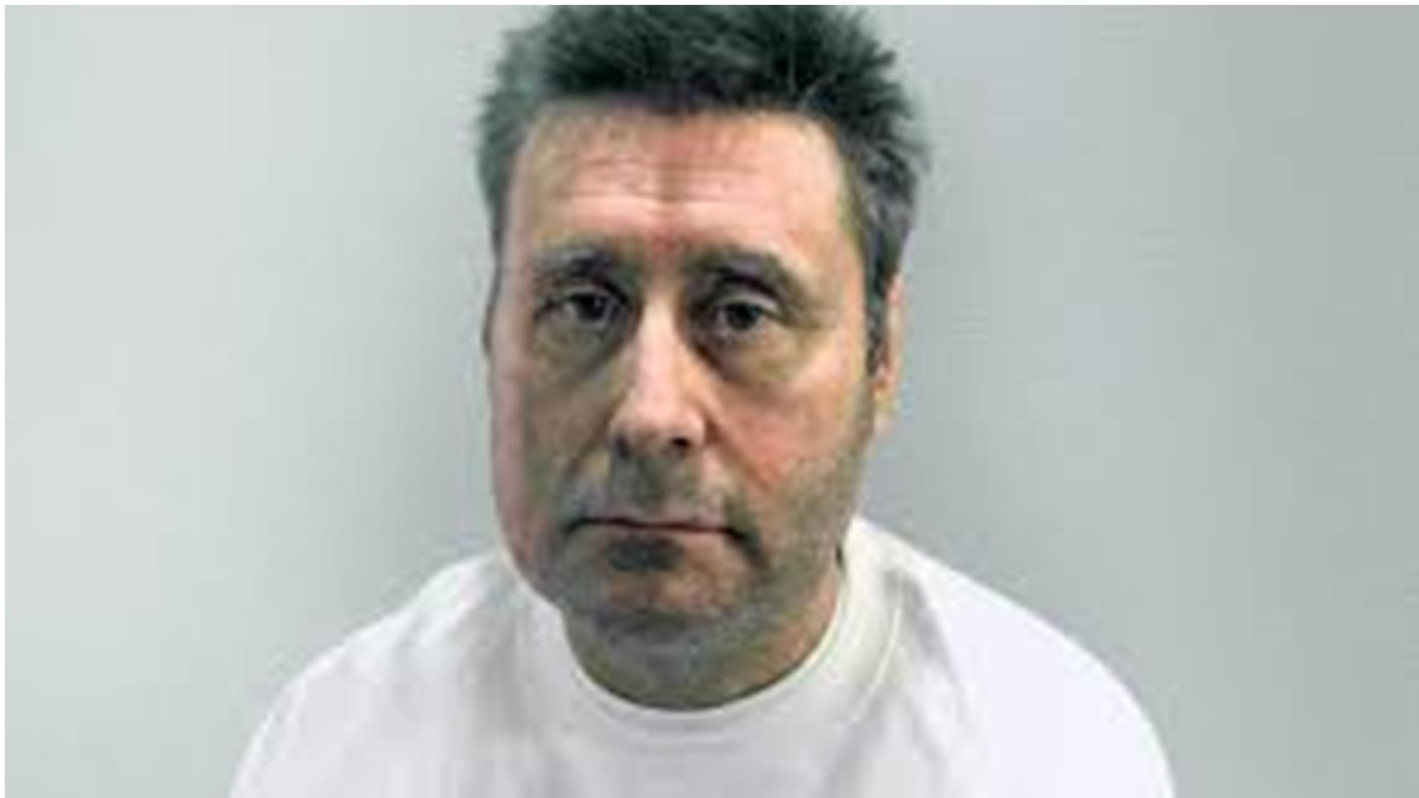
The impact of Osborn on outstanding cases



Success so far

- New strategy ...
- Backlog down by 60% ...
- Over 100 new members and a new chair recruited ...
- 100% of membership now using tablet devices ...
- Two-thirds of our hearings digitally recorded ...
- 40% of our hearings involve remote evidence
- Over 99% of our releases are a “success”

All parole systems make unpopular decisions ...



Implications of Worboys' decision

- On 28 March 2018, following an unprecedented legal challenge, the Divisional Court struck down Rule 25 of the Parole Board Rules that prohibited the Parole Board from providing reasons for decisions
- The Court also found that whilst the decision to release Worboys was not irrational or unreasonable based on the information provided to the Board; it was irrational for the Board not to have considered Worboys wider offending
- From 22 May the Board will be obliged to disclose summary of reasons for its decisions with victims (and potentially other parties)
- There will be a rehearing of the Worboys' case
- The Government are reviewing the Rules and consulting on the creation of a re-consideration mechanism

Worboys impact?

- How do we take account of un-convicted offending fairly?
- Will the release rate change?
- Ensuring a workable reconsideration mechanism?
- Will the public understand our reasons?
- Public confidence in parole decisions?
- Where is the next unpopular decision?