GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

PRESS RELEASE

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Acting Superintendent appointed as Mr. Jay Kendall concludes service at His Majesty's Prison

Release Date: 13 November, 2026

Deputy Superintendent Raymond Grant is serving as Acting Superintendent of His Majesty's Prison Service with effect from 26 October 2026. He succeeds Mr. Jay Kendall, who has completed his contract with the Government of the Virgin Islands and accepted an appointment as Superintendent of Prisons in Anguilla.

Mr. Grant brings extensive experience in prison management, security and administration, including two years at His Majesty's Prison in The Virgin Islands and previous service in Jamaica and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The acting arrangement ensures continuity of leadership while the Service continues its programme of reform.

His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Daniel Pruce, and the Honourable Vincent O. Wheatley, Minister for Health and Social Development, thanked Mr. Kendall for his three years of service to the Virgin Islands.

Governor Pruce said: "During Mr. Kendall's tenure, excellent progress was made in staff development, rehabilitation programmes, security and wider prison reform. I thank him for his service and wish him every success in Anguilla."

Minister Wheatley said: “Mr. Kendall served with dedication and made a meaningful contribution to the development of our prison service. I also want to recognise our prison officers, who do difficult and demanding work every day, largely out of public view. Their professionalism is central to a safe, secure and effective prison.”

Recruitment for a substantive Superintendent of Prisons will begin shortly. The post will be filled through an open and competitive process, and qualified Virgin Islanders are encouraged to apply. Further information will be provided in due course.

Following the escape of two inmates in October 2025, an independent investigation was commissioned and completed. Its recommendations have shaped a substantial programme of work to strengthen prison security. Because the report contains detailed information about security arrangements, it will not be published.

Most recommendations have now been implemented, including improvements to security procedures and intelligence processes. Work on longer-term recommendations, including infrastructure improvements, is under way. Vetting of prison staff has also begun as part of wider efforts to strengthen security, integrity and public confidence in the Service.

The Royal Virgin Islands Police Force (RVIPF) continues its efforts to locate the two escaped inmates. Anyone with information is asked to contact the RVIPF at 311, 368-9339, or the RVIPF Intelligence Unit at 368-9512.

You can also submit anonymous tips through Crime Stoppers at 800-8477 (800-TIPS) or 284-800-8477 if calling from overseas.

The Governor, the Government of the Virgin Islands and the United Kingdom Government remain committed to working together to strengthen security and rehabilitation outcomes, and to build a modern prison service that meets the needs of the Territory.

For Additional Information Contact:

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