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# Joanna Saul, head of Ohio prisons oversight panel, reinstated

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on September 25, 2014 at 6:06 PM, updated September 25, 2014 at 6:13 PM

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COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The executive director of a prisons oversight committee who faced firing over alleged insubordination is in the clear and back on the job, the committee chairwoman who tried to fire her said Thursday.



Joanna Saul  
Correctional  
Institution Inspection  
Committee

Joanna Saul, who runs the bipartisan Correctional Institution Inspection Committee, was criticized by the panel's chairwoman for her handling of a report about the prison system's private food vendor.

Chairwoman **Shirley Smith** ([http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2014/09/ohio\\_state\\_sen\\_shirley\\_smith\\_w.html](http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2014/09/ohio_state_sen_shirley_smith_w.html)), a Democratic state senator from Cleveland, confirmed without explanation that she reinstated Saul, who had been on administrative leave.

"I'm going to let sleeping dogs lie," Smith said. "It's best for everyone involved."

Saul confirmed her reinstatement but declined further comment. Smith told Saul not to discuss her return and to direct any inquires to Smith, according to an email Smith sent Saul on Wednesday obtained by The Associated Press through a records request.

Earlier this week, Smith said Saul was insubordinate for refusing to follow directions for distributing recommendations about changes to the state's contract with Philadelphia-based Aramark Correctional Services.

The committee, a legislative panel, held a hearing in July about problems with Aramark's contract, including running out of main courses, understaffing and a few reports of maggots in food preparation areas.

State Rep. Bob Hagan, a Youngstown Democrat on the committee and an opponent of Saul's firing, questioned whether Gov. John Kasich was involved in efforts to fire Saul. He asked Kasich's office for records Thursday of phone calls back and forth with Smith.

Smith asked last week that Hagan be removed from the committee for "derogatory" comments he made to Smith.

Hagan said Thursday there was never a clear explanation why Smith wanted Saul fired. He said Saul has been "a vigilant watchdog" for change in the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, which falls under Kasich's office.

"Another day, another conspiracy theory," said Kasich spokesman Rob Nichols. He said the committee is a legislative panel, and the governor's office plays no role in it.

Smith declined comment.

Saul, 31, has been executive director for four years and earns \$60,000 annually.

The panel's "oversight under my direction has truly pushed forward positive change in Ohio corrections," Saul said in a letter to Smith last week requesting she be allowed to keep her job.

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I'm going to let sleeping dogs lie, Smith said. "It's best for everyone involved."

I suspect it's better for Smith, otherwise the true story might come out.

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They probably put her on administrative leave so she could go to the vineyards on vacation to learn how to speak for herself ,guess it did not work.

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She looks like an ESPN blond sports babe announcer. Did I read this: The bipartisan correctional institute inspection committee? More pc/diversity run amok! Who pays for these blowhard jobs?

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 executive director job at 27 ? who does she know ??

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True. No one is competent until they reach ..... 40? 50? 60????

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**Signal9** (<http://connect.cleveland.com/user/Signal9/index.html>) 21 hours ago  
 Joanna Saul and the rest of the prison oversight committee should investigate why the State of Ohio is intentionally understaffing its prisons.

The overtime in DRC prisons is off-the-hook.

Is Kasich planning to privatize more State of Ohio prisons after he is reelected?

DRC employees think so.

They believe DRC is intentionally understaffing its prisons so it can absorb those corrections officers displaced by more privatization of State of Ohio prisons after Kasich is reelected.

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That whole story has already been debunked as a Democrat whitewash fantasy.

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 Sounds like Smith is the one having troubles.

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