

NEW INMATE FOR EMMERSONS

LAW FIRM Emmersons Solicitors has unlocked the next stage of its growth with the appointment of a highflying London lawyer to head up its new prison law department.

Emmersons, which has offices in Gosforth and Sunderland, is now one of only three legal firms in the North East to have a dedicated prisoners' law department, headed by prison law expert and author of her own legal book, Lorna Elliott.

Lorna, 33, who has eight years' legal experience, is now working with the Emmersons team and will head up the new division, which is predicted to increase the law firm's turnover by 15 per cent in the next year.

Emmersons Solicitors' senior partner, Jacqueline Emmerson, says: "Launching a specific prison department is certainly a move in the right direction and a great addition to our criminal law service. Prisoners in particular need significant legal representation, so this was an obvious move in terms of business growth and service expansion.

"We are very lucky to have taken Lorna on board who is used to dealing with high profile cases and is the perfect fit. She is an absolute expert in prison law and prisoner's rights and she will also be responsible for training the rest of our prison law team.

"We are now only one of three law firms in the North East to have this capability and the only one in Sunderland."

Lorna Elliott, adds: "I'm very excited to be working alongside the Emmersons' team, which I know to be an established and very well respected law firm in the North East. I hope to get off to a flying start and make the prison law department a welcome addition to the region.

"My role will involve representing prisoners and enforcing their rights, which could be anything from challenging decisions in the High Court to securing release through the parole board."

Lorna has previously practised as a criminal lawyer and has written and published extensively on legal issues.



Emmersons Solicitors' head of prison law, Lorna Elliott.