

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

Proposition No. P.2023/137

Policy & Resources Committee

Public Service Ombudsperson

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy H J R Soulsby

Seconded by: Deputy J A B Gollop

To delete the Proposition and replace with the following:

1. That in the current financial climate and with the need to find savings across the public service, and given the recent review of the existing system for public service complaints, establishing a Public Services Ombudsperson is not a priority use of resources and should not be pursued further at this time but that this should be revisited as part of a planned review of finances in 2026.

OR, IF PROPOSITION 1 IS NOT APPROVED:

2. To agree to proceed with the establishment of a Public Service Ombudsperson in conjunction with Jersey.

OR, IF BOTH PROPOSITIONS 1 AND 2 ARE NOT APPROVED:

3. To agree to proceed with the establishment of a Guernsey-only Public Service Ombudsperson during the political term commencing in June 2025.

Rule 4(1) Information

- a) The proposition(s) contribute to the fulfilment of resolution of the States to investigate the establishment of a PSO.
- b) In preparing the propositions, there has been no consultation with stakeholders.

- c) The propositions have been submitted to His Majesty's Procureur for advice on any legal or constitutional implications.
- d) The financial implications to the States of carrying the proposal into effect are that additional budget in the region of £170,000 would need to be found on an ongoing basis if proposition 2 were approved, whilst approval of proposition 3 would result in a need to find approximately £215,000 on an ongoing basis (all figures at 2022 rates).

Explanatory note

The Policy & Resources Committee realises that, as currently presented, Proposition 1 gives the Assembly the direction not to proceed with the establishment of a Public Service Ombudsperson but, if that proposition is not approved, effectively, the matter would be left in limbo. Mindful of this, the Committee has agreed that the Assembly should additionally be given two alternative options so that the matter can be pursued, notwithstanding the fact that the Committee itself remains of the opinion (by a majority) that any suggestion of establishing an Ombudsperson should be considered at a later date, given the need to exercise financial restraint at this time.