

**THE STATES OF DELIBERATION  
of the  
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY**

**11<sup>th</sup> December, 2024**

**Proposition No. P.2024/95**

**The Government Reform (2024) Requête**

**AMENDMENT**

Proposed by: Deputy P Roffey

Seconded by: Deputy A Cameron

To delete all and replace with:

1. To agree that proper consideration of the appropriate number of States Members can only be sensibly carried out alongside other related questions, such as the structure of government, the number of committees to be populated, and the numbers of members who should be sitting on each of those committees.
2. To instruct the States' Assembly & Constitution Committee ("the SACC") to carry out an in-depth review of the ideal number of States Members, taking into account; the desirability of government being as streamline as possible, the need to properly populate Guernsey's extant committee system of government, and adequate representation of the public.
3. To instruct the SACC, as part of their review, to specifically consider the proportion of States Members who are People's Deputies and Alderney Representatives, bearing in mind the principle of fair, proportionate representation.
4. To instruct the SACC to consult widely with States Members, Committees of the States, the States of Alderney, and other interested parties before finalising their proposals.
5. To instruct the SACC to report back to the States on these matters in good time to allow any possible alteration in the number of States Members to be implemented for the 2029-2033 States' term.

#### **Rule 4(1) information**

- (a) The propositions contribute to the States' objectives in requesting that the properly mandated states committee carries out the work needed to inform a major decision.
- (b) In preparing the proposition, no consultation took place with the Requêteants in drawing up the amendment.
- (c) The propositions have been submitted to His Majesty's Procureur for advice on any legal or constitutional implications.
- (d) The amendment has no additional cost implications beyond the use of the SACC's existing resources.

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Questions of governmental systems and the composition of parliaments are quite weighty matters and should only be addressed by way of very well researched policy letters. They are supremely unsuited to being changed on the basis of requêtes, which by their very nature will usually not benefit from the same level of research or depth of consideration. Even less so from amendments laid off the back of such requêtes. By contrast this amendment does not propose any such immediate reform. Rather it suggests that the States commissions the proper groundwork on which to make such decisions.

Proposition two of the Requête effectively asks SACC to pick up the pieces of the seemingly arbitrary reduction in the number of Deputies proposed in proposition one. What is more it prescribes a wholly unrealistic timescale for such a work stream to be completed in a well thought through manner.

It seems like a classic case of putting the cart before the horse and suggesting drastic action before any proper consideration of the consequences. Clearly the issues covered by propositions one and two are completely inter-related and therefore can only be properly considered holistically. That is exactly what this amendment suggests.

It also seems very illogical to reduce the number of Guernsey Deputies to 28 and yet retain 2 Alderney Representatives despite this being completely out of kilter with proportional representation for the populations of the two islands. This amendment asks SACC to give more consideration to this issue.

Neither the proposer nor the seconder of this amendment is inherently hostile to considering a reduction in number of States Members but suggest that such consideration needs to be very well thought through and researched.