

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

REQUÊTE

Revised Age Limits for Body Piercing

The States are asked to decide:-

Whether, after consideration of the Requête entitled “Revised Age Limits for Body Piercing” dated 5th January 2026 they are of the opinion:-

1. To approve the proposals set out herein and in the draft ordinance in Appendix 1 entitled “the Tattooing, Piercing, Acupuncture and Electrolysis (Guernsey and Alderney) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025.
2. To direct the preparation of such legislation as may be necessary to give effect to the above decision.

Rule 4(1) Information

- a) The propositions are consistent with public health objectives and reflect public and industry support for reform.
- b) Consultation has been undertaken with the Committees *for* Health & Social Care (HSC) and Education, Sport & Culture and the Legislation Review Panel. A copy of HSC’s letter of comment is appended.
- c) The proposition has been submitted to His Majesty’s Procureur for advice on any legal and constitutional implications.
- d) The financial implications are minimal and therefore manageable within existing resources.
- e) Drafting advice has been sought from the States Greffier and the Office of the Committee *for* Health & Social Care.

Requête

Revised Age Limits for Body Piercing

Amendment to the Tattooing, Piercing, Acupuncture and Electrolysis (Guernsey and Alderney) Law, 2000 – Age Limits for Body Piercing

THE HUMBLE PETITION of the undersigned Members of the States of Deliberation SHEWETH THAT:

1. The Tattooing, Piercing, Acupuncture and Electrolysis (Guernsey and Alderney) Law, 2000 (“the Law”) regulates the registration of premises and operators undertaking specified treatments, including body piercing, tattooing, acupuncture and electrolysis.
2. The Law currently prohibits body piercing on individuals under the age of 18, regardless of the nature of the piercing or parental consent. (Ear piercing under the age of 16 is permitted with prior written parental consent.)
3. In October 2017, a complaint was received regarding body piercing being undertaken on underage clients. Following investigation, the Office of Environmental Health and Pollution Regulation received 30 representations from the public supporting a change to the law to permit non-intimate body piercings on persons under 18.
4. The Committee *for* Health & Social Care considered the matter and in 2019 identified three broad options for reform, one of which was supported by registered body piercers whilst addressing public health concerns and maintaining safeguards for minors.
5. This option presented herein proposes allowing non-intimate body piercings, (including cartilage and lip piercings) on individuals aged 16 to 18, with the prior written consent of a parent or guardian, but only when performed by a registered operator and albeit with surface piercings, stretchers and flesh tunnels prohibited for all under-18s.
6. This approach aligns with practices in other jurisdictions, such as Wales, and balances the need for regulation public demand and health protection.

7. The proposed amendment would require changes to the Law to: define "non-intimate piercing", "lip piercing", "cartilage piercing", "surface piercing" and "stretchers and flesh tunnels"; clarify that inner-mouth piercings (e.g., tongue or cheek) are prohibited for under 18s; and permit non-intimate piercings under specified conditions.
8. Finally, as a practical step, it is also proposed to amend the Law to include an enabling power for the Committee *for* Health & Social Care to make further appropriate amendments by Regulation without the need for a further Ordinance.
9. Whilst successive Committees *for* Health & Social Care have supported the change, they have not been able to prioritise this matter given limited policy and drafting resources. Therefore, a Requête is the most appropriate mechanism to enable the States to act directly and expeditiously.
10. The drafting required is limited and specific, and the policy direction is clear. The Requête route allows Members to progress this matter without diverting any resources from other priorities.

THESE PREMISES CONSIDERED OUR PETITIONERS humbly pray that the States of Deliberation may be pleased:

1. To approve the proposals set out herein and in the draft ordinance in Appendix 1 entitled "the Tattooing, Piercing, Acupuncture and Electrolysis (Guernsey and Alderney) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025
2. To direct the preparation of such legislation as may be necessary to give effect to the above decision.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS WILL EVER PRAY GUERNSEY

This 5th day of January 2026

Deputy Gavin St Pier

Deputy Tina Bury

Deputy Jayne Ozanne

Deputy Garry Collins

Deputy Chris Blin

Deputy Rhona Humphreys

Deputy Adrian Gabriel

Rule 4(1) Information

- a) The propositions are consistent with public health objectives and reflect public and industry support for reform.
- b) Consultation has been undertaken with the Committees *for* Health & Social Care (HSC) and Education, Sport & Culture and the Legislation Review Panel. A copy of HSC's letter of comment is appended.
- c) The proposition has been submitted to His Majesty's Procureur for advice on any legal and constitutional implications.
- d) The financial implications are minimal and therefore manageable within existing resources.
- e) Drafting advice has been sought from the States Greffier and the Office of the Committee *for* Health & Social Care.

The Tattooing, Piercing, Acupuncture and Electrolysis (Guernsey and Alderney) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026

THE STATES, in pursuance of their Resolution of the ^{*a}, and in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 123 of the Children (Guernsey and Alderney) Law, 2008^b, and all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby order:-

Amendment of the Law.

1. (1) The Tattooing, Piercing, Acupuncture and Electrolysis (Guernsey and Alderney) Law, 2000^c is amended as follows.

(2) In section 1(3), insert the following definitions in the appropriate alphabetical order –

""**cartilage piercing**"" means piercing of cartilage tissue, including but not limited to helix, conch, daith, tragus, and septum,"

""**lip piercing**"" means piercing of the lip area, excluding wholly inner-mouth piercing,"

""**non-intimate piercing**"" means body piercing performed other than in or around the genital area, nipples or inner-mouth (including tongue or cheek piercing),"

^a Article * of Billet d'État No. * of *.

^b Order in Council No. XIV of 2009; this enactment has been amended.

^c Order in Council No. V of 2000; this enactment has been amended.

""**stretchers and flesh tunnels**" means body modification jewellery designed to expand or maintain an enlarged piercing hole, typically in the ear or other body part,"

""**surface piercing**" means body piercing performed on a flat area of skin using specialist jewellery including, but not limited to, surface bars or dermal anchors,".

(3) In section 8, for subsection (2) substitute the following subsection -

"(2) A person shall not carry out any operation of or involving body piercing on a person who is under the age of 18 years unless the person carrying out the operation is registered under this Law in respect of body piercing, and -

(a) the operation involves only non-intimate piercing, including cartilage piercing and lip piercing but excluding surface piercings, stretchers and flesh tunnels, on a person of 16 or 17 years of age, and

(b) the operation is carried out with the prior written consent of a parent or guardian of, or other person who has parental responsibility in respect of, the young person concerned."

(4) At the end of section 8, insert -

"(4) The Committee may by regulation amend subsection (2) for the purpose of varying -

- (a) the age limits specified therein,
- (b) the categories of permitted piercings,
- (c) the conditions under which such piercings may be carried out."

Citation.

2. This Ordinance may be cited as the Tattooing, Piercing, Acupuncture and Electrolysis (Guernsey and Alderney) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026.

Commencement.

3. This Ordinance shall come into force on 1st June 2026.