

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

Proposition No. P.2023/137

Policy & Resources Committee

Public Service Ombudsperson

MOTION UNDER ARTICLE 7(1) OF THE REFORM (GUERNSEY) LAW, 1948

Proposed by: Deputy G St Pier

Seconded by: Deputy Y Burford

To suspend Rule 24(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees to the extent necessary to permit the amendment below to be debated.

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy G St Pier

Seconded by: Deputy Y Burford

To delete the Propositions inserted by Amendment 1 and replace with the following:

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

OR, IF PROPOSITION 1 IS NOT APPROVED:

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

OR IF PROPOSITIONS 1 AND 2 ARE NOT APPROVED:

3. To direct that the Policy and Resources Committee return to the States by November 2024 with additional up-to-date and revised information on the likely costs of a Guernsey Ombudsperson, in particular by considering cost and case number data from the Isle of Man’s Tynwald Ombudsman service, as well as the potential for the Ombudsperson to be part time in the manner of the Commissioner for Standards, and to identify savings that an Ombudsperson service could deliver by cost avoidance from current processes.

OR, IF PROPOSITIONS 1, 2 AND 3 ARE NOT APPROVED:

4. 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.”

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 1 would result in a need to find approximately £215,000 on an ongoing basis (all figures at 2022 rates). If propositions 3 or 4 were approved, there are no additional funding costs associated as the work can be undertaken within existing budgeted resources.

Explanatory note

Reflecting debate so far, the amendment reverses the order in which the options are voted upon and inserts an additional alternative proposition to look in particular at the Isle of Man experience and the cost savings to be obtained of proceeding with an Ombudsperson.