

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

COMMITTEE FOR HOME AFFAIRS

POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION – RE-APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER

The States are asked to decide:-

Whether, after consideration of the Policy Letter entitled “Police Complaints Commission – Re-Appointment of Member”, dated 25th April 2024, they are of the opinion:-

1. To re-appoint Mrs Judith Soraya Watson as an ordinary member of the Police Complaints Commission for a further period of 4 years, with effect from the end of her current term.

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of the
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COMMITTEE FOR HOME AFFAIRS

POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION – RE-APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER

The Presiding Officer
States of Guernsey
Royal Court House
St Peter Port

25th April 2024

Dear Sir

1 Executive Summary

1.1 The purpose of this Policy Letter is to formally recommend to the States the re-appointment of Mrs Judith Soraya Watson as an ordinary member of the Police Complaints Commission (“the Commission”) for a further period of 4 years, with effect from the end of her current term of appointment.

2 Background

2.1 The Commission was established under the Police Complaints (Guernsey) Law, 2008 (“The Law”)¹ and came into effect on 1st July 2011. The Commission comprises a Chairman and five ordinary Members.

2.2 The Commission’s role is to provide independent oversight of the investigation of complaints made by members of the public against the conduct of police officers employed in the Guernsey Police Force. The Commission also has a role in considering appeals against decisions made in relation to complaints made by members of the public.

3 Constitution

3.1 The Schedule to the Law sets out the composition of, and appointment process to, the Commission. The following parts are relevant.

¹ [The Police Complaints \(Guernsey\) Law, 2008](#)

- 3.2 Paragraph 1(1) of the Schedule states that *“The Commission shall consist of a Chairman and five ordinary members.”*
- 3.3 Paragraph 1(2) states that *“The Chairman and ordinary members shall be appointed by the States on the recommendation of the Committee”.*
- 3.4 Paragraph 1(4) states that *“the Chairman and ordinary members shall be appointed for a term of four years.”*
- 3.5 Paragraph 1(6) states that *“Members of the Commission may be reappointed.”*

4 Re-Appointment of Ordinary Member

- 4.1 The Committee for Home Affairs is pleased to recommend Mrs Watson for re-appointment as an ordinary member of the Commission. Mrs Watson was first appointed by the States at its meeting on 25th November 2020, for a term of 4 years.
- 4.2 Mrs Watson has demonstrated throughout her time serving on the Commission that she has the skills and ability to continue to fulfil the role. Mrs Watson is able to read and follow complex investigations and make balanced decisions, communicating effectively to other members about the reasons for those decisions.
- 4.3 Mrs Watson is a respected member of the Commission and has their full support for re-appointment. Mrs Watson has confirmed that she would like to continue in the role and has the capacity and flexibility to prepare for and attend meetings as required.

5 Compliance with Rule 4

- 5.1 Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees sets out the information which must be included in, or appended to, motions laid before the States.
- 5.2 In accordance with Rule 4(1):
- a) The propositions contribute to the States’ objectives in ensuring that the Commission can appropriately discharge its statutory duties.
 - 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) There are no financial implications to the States of carrying the proposal into effect.

5.3 In accordance with Rule 4(2), the propositions relate to the duties of the Committee to advise the States and to develop and implement policies on matters relating to its purpose including law enforcement, including policing and customs.

5.4 The propositions have the unanimous support of the Committee.

Yours faithfully

R G Prow
President

S P J Vermeulen
Vice-President

S E Aldwell
L McKenna
A W Taylor

P A Harwood OBE
Non-States Member