

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

**COMMITTEE *FOR* EMPLOYMENT & SOCIAL SECURITY**

**APPOINTMENT OF HOUSING APPEALS PANEL MEMBERS**

The States are asked to decide:

Whether, after consideration of the policy letter entitled 'Appointment of Housing Appeals Panel Members' dated 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025, they are of the opinion:

1. To reappoint Ms Julia Anne Springett White, Mr Keith Bell, Ms Hayley Cooper and Ms Natasha Newell to the Housing Appeals Panel for a term of office beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 and ending on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2028.
2. To appoint Mrs Audrey Branch to the Housing Appeals Panel for a term of office beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 and ending on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2028.
3. To reappoint Ms Julia Anne Springett White as Chair of the Housing Appeals Panel for a term of office beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 and ending on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2028.
4. To re-appoint Mr Keith Bell as Deputy Chair of the Housing Appeals Panel for a term of office beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 and ending on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2028.

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

18<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Sir

**1. Executive summary**

- 1.1. This Policy Letter sets out proposals to reappoint Ms Julia White, Mr Keith Bell, Ms Hayley Cooper and Ms Natasha Newell to the Housing Appeals Panel ('the Panel' or 'this Panel'), and to appoint Mrs Audrey Branch to the Panel, for a period of three years. It also sets out proposals for Ms Julia White to be reappointed as the Chair and Mr Keith Bell as the Deputy Chair of the Panel.

**2. Background**

- 2.1. If Housing or the Guernsey Housing Association make a decision in relation to a tenant or applicant which that person feels is unreasonable, unfair, or against the law, that person has the right of appeal.
- 2.2. In practice, the first step is for an internal review of the decision to be carried out by a senior officer who has not been involved in the case. After an internal review has been carried out, if the tenant, or prospective tenant, continues to feel aggrieved by the decision, they can lodge an appeal against the decision to be heard and determined by the Housing Appeals Tribunal ('the Tribunal').
- 2.3. The Tribunal is appointed from the membership of the Panel. The Panel is comprised of independent members who are appointed by the States on the recommendation of the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security ('the Committee'). Three members from the Panel form a Tribunal. The Panel was established under the States Housing (Tribunal and Appeals) (Guernsey)

Regulations, 2005<sup>1</sup>.

### **3. Proposed appointments**

- 3.1 On 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020<sup>2</sup>, the States approved the appointment of five members to the Panel, including a Chair and Deputy Chair. Since that time, one member, Mr John Martyn Weir, has tendered his resignation. The number of active Panel members is now four.
- 3.2 It is proposed that Ms Julia Anne Springett White, Mr Keith Bell, Ms Hayley Cooper and Ms Natasha Newell are reappointed to the Panel for a period of three years, from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2028.
- 3.3 A fully open recruitment process will be carried out during 2025 to recruit new members to a number of Appeals panels, including to this Panel.
- 3.4 In the meantime, in order to add resilience to the Panel, it is proposed that Mrs Audrey Branch, who is currently a member and Deputy Chair of the Social Insurance Tribunal, be appointed to this Panel, alongside the reappointed Panel members, for a period of three years.
- 3.5 A short profile of each nominee is set out in the Appendix to this Policy Letter.
- 3.6 The Committee also recommends that Ms Julia Anne Springett White be reappointed as Chair of the Panel, and that Mr Keith Bell be reappointed as Deputy Chair of the Panel, for terms of office beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 and ending on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2028.

### **4. Compliance with Rule 4**

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 In accordance with Rule 4(1):
  - a) These propositions constitute business as usual, therefore, they are not referenced in the Government Work Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> [The States Housing \(Tribunal and Appeals\) \(Guernsey\) Regulations, 2005.](#)

<sup>2</sup> Housing Appeals Tribunal – Minor Constitutional Changes and Appointment of Housing Appeals Panel Members <https://gov.gg/article/176535/Housing-Appeals-Tribunal---Minor-Constitutional-Changes-and-Appointment-of-Housing-Appeals-Panel-Members>.

- b) The Committee confirms that it has not consulted with other Committees or stakeholders in respect of the propositions set out in this Policy Letter as this is considered unnecessary.
- 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 proposals into effect.

4.3 In accordance with Rule 4(2):

- a) The propositions relate to the Committee's duty under Regulation 1(1) of the States Housing (Tribunal and Appeals) (Guernsey) Regulations, 2005 to recommend persons to be appointed to the Panel.
- b) The propositions have the unanimous support of the Committee.

Yours faithfully

P J Roffey  
President

H L de Sausmarez  
Vice-President

T L Bury  
S J Falla  
L C Queripel

M R Thompson  
Non-States Member

R J Le Brun  
Non-States Member

### Profiles of recommended appointees to the Housing Appeals Panel

#### **Ms Julia White**

Ms White is currently Chair of the Social Insurance Tribunal and Income Support Appeals Panel and Deputy Chair of the Tax on Real Property Appeals Panel for Guernsey and Alderney. She is also an Independent Member on the Administrative Review Board. Ms White was admitted as an Advocate of the Royal Court in 2001 and retired from private practice in November 2016.

#### **Mr Keith Bell**

Mr Bell has been a member of the Housing Appeals Panel for the last five years and is also a Planning Panel lay member. He is an experienced company/commercial/corporate and employment lawyer. He was a senior associate in the corporate department in Babbé from May 2006 until November 2019 and has since been working with them on a part-time consultancy basis. He is a solicitor and chartered secretary, corporate governance professional, and an accredited mediator.

#### **Ms Hayley Cooper**

Ms Cooper was Legal Aid Administrator at the Guernsey Legal Aid Service until February 2018 and acted as Deputy Legal Aid Administrator on a temporary basis until August 2019. She acted as a member of the Arms Length Body Review Panel between 2018 and 2020. Ms Cooper is a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales (non-practising). She has been on the Housing Appeals Panel since May 2020.

#### **Ms Natasha Newell**

Advocate Newell is an Advocate of the Royal Court and an English barrister. She has worked for a leading commercial Barrister's Chambers, as well as some of the world's leading offshore firms and was more recently a director of a global multi-family office. Advocate Newell is a Partner at Number 10 Advocates and a highly accomplished litigator, with experience in employment, trusts, regulatory, criminal and family law matters. She was appointed Chair of the Population Employment Advisory Panel in 2020 and has also been a director of Guernsey Bereavement Service since 2020. Advocate Newell has been on the Housing Appeals Panel for ten years and served as Chair of the Panel between 2015 and 2019. Advocate Newell speaks fluent French, Hindi and Punjabi.

#### **Mrs Audrey Branch**

Mrs Branch has significant experience in the finance sector, notably in regulation. She has legal training, having been called to the English Bar. She is a governance professional. From 1994-2015 she was employed by the Guernsey Financial Services Commission in various roles, including Deputy Director of Banking and Deputy Director of Fiduciary Policy and Supervision. Mrs Branch is currently President of the Tax on

Real Property Appeals Panel and a member and Vice Chair of the Social Insurance Tribunal.