



**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**STATES OF DELIBERATION**

**OF THE**

**ISLAND OF GUERNSEY**

**HANSARD**

**Royal Court House, Guernsey, Wednesday, 20th March 2024**

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C. P. A Blin	M. P. Leadbeater
A. H. Brouard	D. J. Mahoney
Y. Burford	A. D. S. Matthews
T. L. Bury	L. J. McKenna
A. Cameron	C. P. Meerveld
D. de G. de Lisle	N. G. Moakes
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S. J. Falla	R. G. Prow
P. T. R. Ferbrache	L. C. Queripel
A. Gabriel	P. J. Roffey
J. A. B. Gollop	H. J. R. Soulsby
S. P. Haskins	G. A. St Pier
M. A. J. Helyar	A. W. Taylor
N. R. Inder	S. P. J. Vermeulen
A. Kazantseva-Miller	

**Representatives of the Island of Alderney**

Alderney Representatives S. Roberts and E. A. J. Snowdon

**The Clerk to the States of Deliberation**

S. M. D. Ross, Esq. (States' Greffier)

**Absent at the Evocation**

Deputy H. L. de Sausmarez (*relevée à 9h 33*); Deputy J. P. Le Tocq (*relevé à 10h 23*);  
Deputy L. S. Trott (*relevé à 11h 31*)

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# States of Deliberation

*The States met at 9.30 a.m.*

[THE DEPUTY BAILIFF *in the Chair*]

## PRAYERS

*The States' Greffier*

## EVOCATION

## CONVOCATION

**The States' Greffier:** Billets d'État III and IV of 2024. To the Members of the States of the Island of Guernsey, I hereby give notice that a Meeting of the States of Deliberation will be held at the Royal Courthouse on Wednesday, 20th March 2024 at 9.30 a.m. to consider the items listed in this Billet d'État, which have been submitted for debate and Billet d'État IV is convened pursuant to the provisions of Rule 2(4) of the Rules of Procedure.

# Statements

## Hospital Modernisation Programme – Statement by the President of the Committee *for* Health & Social Care

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Good morning everybody. It feels like a long time since I have seen you all. Can I start by asking Deputy de Sausmarez whether she wishes to be relevéed?

10

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** Yes, please, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you very much.

I have given permission for the President of the Committee *for* Health & Social Care to make a Statement under Rule 10(3).

15

Yes. Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard** Thank you very much, madam. And thank you for allowing me to the opportunity to address the Assembly this morning.

20

I am pleased to report that phase one of our Hospital modernisation is entering the final stages of construction, and our Bailiwick will have access to modern critical care facilities that we should all be proud of by the autumn. However, since providing Members with a recent update on the estimated cost for phase two of our Hospital modernisation, our Committee has understandably received feedback, comment and questions, and I will seek to address some of these key themes that have emerged.

25

Just as a reminder of the current position on costs for phase two, there are some significant cost pressures and it is estimated that the project will exceed the cost envelope agreed by the States without intervention. Without intervention is important to emphasise, as our Committee has very much directed, that all necessary interventions take place.

30 The estimate we have received suggests the increase could be between £20 million and £30 million above the £120 million cost envelope, depending on inflation. However, I want to reiterate the commitment we have given that our Committee has directed that all options are explored; all interventions taken to bring the costs back into line with the budget agreed by this Assembly.

35 These options will not at this stage include reducing the scope of phase two, which is designed to serve our Bailiwick community for at least the next 30 years. Both our Committee and our predecessors have been clear that our Hospital modernisation is essential if we are to have any chance of meeting the community's health and care needs in the future.

40 As we all know, the demands on health and care services are increasing all the time and we remain of the view that all elements of phase two are essential if we are to meet that demand. We have been pleased to receive consistent support from this Assembly for the programme. As stated, our work to review our options will take several months to complete, so we will not speculate on what the potential solutions might be. Our team needs to be given the time and the space to carry out the necessary work, which will include a value engineering exercise and examination of all non-

45 construction estimated costs. The team have more closely aligned with the States' Property Unit, so we are drawing on subject matter expertise in respect of the construction element. If after this work has been completed, it is found that it is not possible to contain the estimated costs within the £120 million agreed by the Assembly, we will return the matter to the States so Members can debate the best way forward.

50 We have also, understandably, been asked to clarify who knew what, when. Some Members of the programme management team received updated estimates in February 2023, based on more detailed design than had been used for the previous cost estimates that had formed the outline business case. It was the outline business case information that formed the basis of our communication with States' Members in the run up to the Funding & Investment Plan debate.

55 It is an unacceptable fact that the updated estimates received in February 2023 were not shared wider than a small number of staff. The Committee and its current senior advisors were unaware of this at the time of the October 2023 debate on the Funding & Investment Plan. I am sure Members will understand the Committee was very concerned that this information was not shared with us.

60 While matters between employees and their employer are confidential to those parties, we have been advised that any staff who were aware of that information are no longer employed by the States of Guernsey. I am unable to comment further on this point. The current Senior Responsible Officer and Programme Director became aware of the updated estimates at the very end of October 2023, after the Funding & Investment Plan debate. They subsequently carried out work to establish the background before briefing our Committee on 19th December 2023.

65 In that interim stage, officers needed time to review and thoroughly assess all matters of concern and then revert to the Committee, having discussed this with other senior colleagues in the States. The Committee was aware that further work was needed to better understand the accuracy of the revised cost estimates. A meeting took place with the consultants, who supplied the estimates in mid-January, as part of that due diligence process, and confirmation of the estimated increased cost pressures was advised to the Committee on 6th February this year.

70 The Committee felt unable to update either the Policy & Resources Committee or the wider Assembly prior to receiving this confirmation about the accuracy of the information at that time. At the time at which the late amendment to the Government Work Plan was lodged in January, the Committee was still awaiting this confirmation. The Policy & Resources Committee were briefed in advance of an already scheduled joint meeting with the Committee *for* Health & Social Care on 27th February. I then updated States' Members on 11th March.

We look forward to working politically with the Policy & Resources Committee to provide oversight of this programme, which, as I stated earlier, will serve our community for the next 30 years.

80 I am again grateful to the Deputy Bailiff for allowing me to make this Statement, which I hope has provided Members with a substantive overview of the events and I would like to end by again reiterating and emphasising that these are additional estimated costs that will be incurred without intervention, but that we are committed to doing everything reasonably possible to return costs to the budget agreed by this Assembly.

85 I am confident that we will reduce the additional cost by a significant amount, but if we cannot get them back within the £120 million allocation, we will return the matter to the Assembly for further debate and direction.

Thank you.

90 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you. Questions?  
Deputy Ferbrache.

**Deputy Ferbrache:** I am grateful to the President for his Statement. As I would expect from him, open, frank and honest. So I am grateful for that. What concerns me, though, is the comment that  
95 he has made, that there could be several months where senior civil servants look at the work involved, but with no cutting down of the scope. If they have already been advised that it is going to cost £20 million to £30 million more to provide the same level of service that is expected in phase two, what is the point of going for that? Either say to the States now we need another £20 million to £30 million or come back with revised and modified proposals.

100 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** Thank you, Deputy Ferbrache.  
I probably agree with you, but what we would like to do is have the space to really hone down  
105 on these figures, give it the real rigour that it needs. The Island will need an additional extension to the Hospital one way or the other. If we find that the cost envelope, we cannot get back into the £120 million, we will return to this Assembly, and it will be for you Members to decide how much you wish to invest in Islanders' health for the future years. But I think I agree with you, Deputy Ferbrache.

110 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** I am intrigued. Over the last two or three years, Deputy Dudley-Owen has been on her feet talking about the TEP build and from what I hear, they have something called project  
115 boards, and I understand there is normally a member of Policy & Resources, and I think a member of her Committee on those, on those project boards and I do not know how often they sit.

Could the President confirm whether there are project boards for the two phases, when they sit and what members of his Committee attend those project meetings? Because, of course, what I am alluding to if there were Members on the project board, might he not have known about the  
120 changes in the scope of phase two earlier on in the process, rather than having this dumped on him like he has had now?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

125 **Deputy Brouard:** Thank you, Deputy Inder.

That is one of the challenges that we have got going forward. We are looking at putting in place a full project board. We had no knowledge from the team that were working on this that there were any issues until we had the meeting on 19th December.

130 That is where we discovered that this particular issue came to light. And we had no indication from our staff that there was any problem at all coming up to the States' debate. In fact, even Members of the Assembly very kindly went to the Hospital and spoke to the people directly involved in that project – you know, saw them eye to eye and they were advised exactly of the prices, etc., and how it was being managed.

135 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Burford.

**Deputy Burford:** Thank you, madam.

Deputy Brouard says that he is relatively confident that some savings can be found in the up to £20 million or £30 million without reducing the scope of the project. And my question is, if that is possible, why wasn't it done before?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

145 **Deputy Brouard:** Most of the increase in costs is partly from the original £109 million, up to £120 million was inflation. And of course what has happened is the project has slipped. We would have liked to have carried on about two years earlier, but unfortunately, as we all know, P&R wished to roll all the projects together into the Funding & Investment review, so we were waiting for funding to carry on to do the next stages of work. That has now been pushed back.

150 So overall part of it is because of the extension in the timelines. But Deputy Burford has got a Scrutiny meeting, I think that they are calling us for, and I am sure we will have the professionals there to give her that information that she is seeking. On the floor of this Assembly, at the moment, I am just not able to give the comprehensive answer that I would like to give.

155 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Helyar.

**Deputy Helyar:** Thank you, madam.

Just to clarify, the answer that was given to Deputy Inder's earlier question, because it was implied in the response, is it correct to say that there were no political Members on the project management board?

160 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

165 **Deputy Brouard:** That is correct: there have been no political Members on the project board, and I do not think there are any political Members on the project board from phase one, as far as I am aware.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier.

**Deputy St Pier:** Thank you, madam.

170 Deputy Brouard in his Statement said 'who knew what, when' are the key questions. And I would agree. What steps have the Committee taken to ensure that it has been advised of all the matters that it should have been advised of by officers in relation not only to this matter, but in relation to any other matter within the mandate of the Committee?

175 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** Yes. Thank you for that question.

180 There has been a substantial change of personnel. We as politicians do rely on the services that are provided through our Civil Service. Unfortunately, we have been let down on this particular occasion. And we have made it very clear that we are not going to be let down again.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Soulsby.

**Deputy Soulsby:** Thank you, madam.

185 Given there have clearly been issues over communications of key information, does the President welcome the fact that the Head of the Public Service has instigated an independent review of the governance of major projects, which has the full support of the Policy & Resources Committee?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

190 **Deputy Brouard:** It has my full support as well.  
Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gabriel.

195 **Deputy Gabriel:** Thank you, madam. I thank the President for his update.

He has mentioned that there has been a change of personnel, which he cannot comment further on. But I am still getting over the announcement that those personnel knew in February 2023 that there was an uplift. I have a question, he said that personnel have been changed, but was it the personnel or is it the actual culture that is in HSC, and is information being withheld from political  
200 Members that they should know about either on this matter or any other matter of their mandate?  
Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

205 **Deputy Brouard:** I think probably best to answer you, Deputy Gabriel, this way: the senior management of the States, from the point of view of the Civil Service, were equally as frustrated and concerned when the information came to light. So there is no particular culture as such of hiding things. It was just this particular area where staff withheld that information.

We are still trying to understand exactly why they did and what their motives were, but there  
210 was no reason for them to, because I would have been happy to stand here and ask the States for £150 million, if that is what it was going to cost. I just want to make it clear as well, we are only at the outline business case. We have not put the full business case yet. We are still scoping the work, still making sure that we have got all our ducks in a row. So the project has not overspent yet because we have not actually fully started it, if you see what I mean. But you are absolutely right. It  
215 was as much as a shock to the civil servants as it was to us.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Aldwell.

**Deputy Aldwell:** Thank you, madam.

220 It has been quite a shock to me, really, to find out that you have not had a member of your Committee on the project board, we have had either Deputy Murray or Deputy Dudley-Owen on our board. We have known right from the beginning if ever any problems came up. And we have relayed that to the States. So to hear that you have not had that, are you going to reassure us, please, that on the next project board or the project board going forward, you will have a member  
225 of your Committee sat on there, so you are able to answer all the questions that are required?  
Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

230 **Deputy Brouard:** I am happy to give that undertaking. Yes. And we are taking more advice from the Property Services who have also agreed to help.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

235 **Deputy Gollop:** Thank you, madam.

I support the board and the project generally, but within the rescoping and the reprioritisation the board is undertaking, is there not an opportunity to ensure that the project, when it comes back, is perhaps less staff hungry? Because one aspect of the cost of the scheme was not just the capital cost, but the need for significantly increased staff enrolment. So can the project be rethought in order to reduce the cost base in the sense of revenue as well as capital?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** Thank you, Deputy Gollop.

245 That is a very tricky question to answer. The medical services still rely very heavily on staff, not only to actually do the operations, but also for the cleaning, also for the nursing, for the care afterwards. So I think reducing staff numbers or to minimise them or make them lower than they should be will not give the efficiencies.

The difficulty we have is that the demand coming through, and you have seen it from the figures, is substantial and it is growing like a hockey stick, getting sharper and sharper. If you do not meet that you are going to have real serious problems when I am long gone. And, we as a Committee want to try and give you the best chance you have of being able to serve Islanders who will be phoning you up, asking you why they cannot have their operation.

250 And we have even got that today. And Deputies regularly pass on. But what they do not do when they pass on these issues to me, they do not say, 'by the way, I did not vote for the Hospital modernisation' or 'I did not vote for this that would have helped you' or 'I did not vote to make sure you had the accommodation in the field next to the Hospital'. They do not mention that bit, but they do mention, 'That is Deputy Brouard's problem, here is his number.'

260 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier.

**Deputy St Pier:** Madam, in the absence of this information having entered the public domain, when would the President have made this statement?

265 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** That is a real how many variables are there?

We were going through a process, the idea was to first of all find out whether or not this information that came through was actually true, which is what we have been doing. We have then, through one of our board members, been interrogating the professionals who have been advising us as to where these particular elements have come from. Policy & Resources, senior staff of the Civil Service already knew, we were then advising Policy & Resources.

270 The next stage was to then advise States' Members once we had a confirmation that, in fact, there could potentially be a substantial increase. So it is just an iterative process, one week, then the next, then the next. And this was the first opportunity in view of the questions that we have had, for me to give the opportunity to States' Members to question me and the board as to why and where and when.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Meerveld.

280 **Deputy Meerveld:** Thank you, madam.

I would like to pick up on Deputy Burford's question; just take it a bit further. Deputy Brouard, in his Statement, said he is confident of finding savings. First question of a two part question is why weren't those savings found earlier? Why are we looking at them now? But more importantly,

285 £30 million overshoot on a £120 million budget requires an over 25% reduction in cost to get it  
back within the cost envelope. Does Deputy Brouard believe the Committee can achieve that? And  
what is the probability of this coming back to the Assembly with a higher price tag to be re-debated?  
Thank you, madam.

290 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** I think one of the difficulties and this will probably come out in the Scrutiny  
hearing was one of the opportunities that was missed. It was that the – I think it is called optimism  
bias – at the very beginning was reduced further than it should be at an early stage to make the  
295 project as cost effective as possible. Had that not taken place, we would have had a lot more  
headroom as we went into the next detailed plan. So that is one part.

We are trying to run a multi-million pound project in a goldfish bowl with everybody looking in  
and poking from the sides. It is not how you would do it in the commercial world. We are trying to  
put together a package as to what this project will cost. The indicative price is well before my time,  
300 about £60 million. We have had COVID, we have had inflation. Now the designs have come in. We  
went in in all honesty to the States for £120 million. It may well be that the costs, if you want that  
project to go ahead, may be higher.

But that will be your decision and we will be coming back to you at that time with as firm a  
project as you can get because that is the difficulty, trying to nail a project of this size down to the  
305 penny is going to be very difficult. There has to be some leeway. And we of course, will do everything  
we can to make sure that all the costs are looked at and are reduced as much as we possibly can to  
get the facilities that the Island is going to need for the next 50 years or the next 30 to 50 years.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Moakes.

310 **Deputy Moakes:** Thank you.

I remember when we had the debate originally, and I might get the numbers slightly wrong here  
or completely wrong, but I had a feeling that currently, or at the time we had the debate, there were  
80 open positions in the Hospital roughly. And if the extension went ahead, in fact there would be  
315 about 180 open positions. And I always thought, we are going to have this shiny new second phase  
of the Hospital with no staff.

I did consider and think at the time that housing being one of the big problems for staff, why  
was that not part of the plan? And maybe before phase two went ahead, we should address where  
the people necessary would live. And I wonder whether that could be incorporated into this review  
320 that is going on, because whether savings are needed to be made off the original number or off  
potentially these new numbers, if you could reduce the requirement for agency workers and have  
full-time nurses, would that not reduce costs?

And so I think that that needs to be taken into account and thought of as part of this. So whether  
it is the original £120 million or whether it is £140 million or £150 million, I think those costs should  
325 be looked at, understood and factored in, if it is at all possible. Will that be part of the review?  
Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

330 **Deputy Brouard:** Thank you, Deputy Moakes, you make a very good point.

The issue of housing goes hand in glove with the extension of the Hospital. Even today if we had  
the housing that had been put in stream before we came into HSC, we would be in a far, far better  
position and in fact very early on – I am almost like a broken record in this particular Assembly –  
how many times I have said that key worker housing is one of the keys for us to unlock the fact that  
335 we are using agency staff.

Agency staff are great, do not get me wrong, because they are doing the operations on your parents today. You know, we need them. But we would very much like to have permanent staff. And permanent staff like to live in nice houses and close to the Hospital, for those who are working in an acute situation. So very much, we need to work hand in glove.

Unfortunately, the mandate for housing sits with ESS and they are now moving in that ground. There is notification today about permissions for the Channel Island Tyres site. But you will need more staff going forward. You are not going to be able to run a health care service on less staff than we have today in 10 years' time. That is my prediction and I will take anybody's bet on that. You will need more staff. There are more people coming through.

We are able to do far more things with regard to operations than we could ever have done 20, 30 years ago. Granny would not be having a hip done 30 years ago at age 90. We can do that now. We have got the technology, but we will need the facilities to be able to bring that forward. And one of the restrictions we have in particular is the hospital theatres. We will be able to expand that and be able to get more throughput through. We will have a modern Hospital that doctors and nurses will want to work in.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you, because this seems to be such a subject upon which the Members want to speak on. I will extend questions – I am afraid Deputy Brouard – until 10 past 10 if we continue that long. So I will ask Deputy Falla then to pose his question.

Can I just remind everybody about the time restrictions in relation to the questions and the answers when they are giving their questions? Thank you very much.

Deputy Falla.

**Deputy Falla:** Madam, I think I heard the President say that the States' Property Unit, as subject matter experts, were now to be involved in the review, if I heard correctly. Does that mean that they were not involved up until this point? And if so, why not?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** We were all civil servants, I think included, under the impression that the team we had was a professional team doing a professional job and doing well. We were as surprised as those with the civil servants that it was not so. So there was no reason at that stage for Property Services to become involved. Now we have uncovered it, now we have found this information out, we are putting everything into that particular pot and one of the areas is to use Property Services as an extra strengthening piece into that jigsaw.

But there was no reason before for us to be from all the reports we were having, that there was any reason for concern from either the Civil Service or politically.

But thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Haskins.

**Deputy Haskins:** Thank you, madam.

There was an assertion of very high scrutiny from, I think, this Assembly at every turn. I do not believe that to be the case, but what I think I would like to do is revisit the first question from Deputy St Pier, which was what measures were put in place by the Committee to make sure that the Committee were continually made aware of developments in their mandate? This is especially important given that there was no political oversight in this current project.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** The oversight that we had was we regularly met with our team who regularly advised us that there was nothing of concern for us. And in fact, Members of this Assembly met the

team and were able to ask questions of them direct. We did not get any indication that there was any reason for concern.

390 I think I am a man of some integrity. I would have not come to you knowing that I have got a project that could possibly be higher, asking for £120 million, when really I should have been here asking for £150 million. There is no reason why I sat in the same room with you with those professionals who were advising us and advising you, the States' Members, of the position. That is what happened.

395 But again, I reiterate this is all part of the going forward to do the Hospital modernisation. We have not got to the full business case yet. So there is going to be plenty of scrutiny all along this particular journey. You are not going to have £120 million making a Hospital go through smoothly. Just look across at our sisters and cousins in the island next door.

400 This is a blip. It is very unfortunate. I apologise on behalf of the Committee that you did not know. And staff have apologised to me that we did not know.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Kazantseva-Miller.

405 **Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** The presentation to Deputies that Members referred to took place on 20th September last year, just weeks before the Funding & Investment Plan debate. Not only did many officers, the officers presented to us, it was well attended, tell us that the costs have not escalated, they gave us a figure of what a five-year delay could cost, which was £25 million.

410 It sounds like the offices are six years off the mark of where the cost could be. Is this an example of fundamental failure of Government across all levels of governance for such a significant project and also fundamentally misleading Deputies at that meeting?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** No, thank you for your question.

415 No. As I reiterated a couple of times, we were as concerned as you are concerned now. We did not know. Had we known, I would have had no difficulty asking for the States to fund £200 million, £500 million, whatever the price was for whatever extension or new Hospital or whatever we needed.

420 So there was no reason for us to pitch particularly low or try and mislead you. How would we gain? We would only end up in this room doing exactly what I am doing now. But as I said, this is a very big project. It has been years and years in its construction. We relied on the professionals that we had. Unfortunately, they let us down on this occasion.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Matthews.

425 **Deputy Matthews:** Thank you, madam.

430 Would the President agree with me that while it is correct to say that there was no project board membership with political representation, there had been a Transformation governance board at programme level, of which I was a member but which had not met since April 2023. And that was on the basis that the programme was paused following the Tax Review phase two, and that at no time had that project board been informed of the revised estimate of the new costs. So no Members were aware of that at any time.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** So what is the question, Deputy Matthews?

435 **Deputy Matthews:** Would the President agree with me?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** Thank you. Very happy to agree with my fellow board member.

440 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Queripel.

**Deputy Queripel:** Thank you, madam.

Can the President tell me, please, how many staff are working on this project management team? What are their job titles and individual responsibilities?

445 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** Thank you for that question. I will take that one away, if I may. I do not know the names of all the people or the titles of all the project team, but happy to supply that

450 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Taylor.

**Deputy Taylor:** Thank you, madam.

No one likes to hear about price increases. However, construction costs and labour costs are often talked about in this Chamber and in the general public. It is well established that they have gone up. So putting aside the lack of reporting to political Members of HSC would Deputy Brouard, actually agree with me that the real surprise would have been if this project had not gone up in price?

460 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** Thank you for that question.

With most of these projects, these projects will cost what they will cost. (*Interjection*) It would be helpful if Deputy Inder would stop making comments while I am trying to speak. The project to the end of its iteration before we can then come to you with a final figure. As I said, the full business case has not yet been done and at that stage we will be a lot closer to knowing what the fundamentals of the project will cost. We will then have an idea of the contractors' costs, the idea of fees for architects, etc. we will have a far, far better ...

This is an iterative process and where we have started, we know what we want to build, but we have not got anywhere near to that final position. So the actual cost of it will be then revealed, hopefully at the final business case. And if it is more than the £120 million, it will be for this Assembly to decide whether we go ahead. But not going ahead will give you an even bigger problem.

475 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Oliver.

**Deputy Oliver:** Thank you, madam.

Does the President agree with me that at that meeting that many Deputies were actually misguided because with the work that you said that still needs to go ahead, I assumed all of that had actually gone ahead?

480 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** The idea at that meeting was to give us a cost envelope to work to, to progress the project further. So the board has been misled as much as States' Members that the figures that are now revealing may well be well in excess of the £120 million envelope that we were looking for. I think that answers your question, Deputy Oliver.

Thank you.

490 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Fairclough.

**Deputy Fairclough:** Thank you, madam.

We have heard a lot about boards and teams, but could the President please confirm whether there was or is a project director or project manager on this £120million, £150 million project?

495 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** There is.

500 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Fairclough.

**Deputy Ferbrache:** I think Deputy Brouard will recall that I was one of the first State' Members off the tracks, as it were, when these figures were released, saying I thought he had been let down by civil servants, and I suggested that is the case. As somebody who feels badly bruised still by being let down by civil servants in relation to Pillar Two and the tax regime and the struggle that we have had to get good quality civil servants, the governance was raised by Deputy Soulsby, which Deputy Brouard has confirmed he now knows about.

505 And it may be a question for P&R, really, rather than him, but I will ask him nevertheless, has he confidence that the civil servants will come up with people who are able to discharge these heavy tasks? Because I assume that the people that were advising him and not advising him were not clerks on £20,000 a year. They were civil servants on big salaries, doing a very poor job. Has he any confidence? Because I do not at the moment, and I am going to need a lot of convincing that this review of the governance by the senior civil servants will do anything other than move people around the track.

515 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** Deputy Ferbrache makes a fair point.

520 We equally, as well as P&R, felt let down with the Pillar Two. We also feel let down by this. As politicians, we do rely on really good quality information from civil servants. As soon as we start digging, and some of you probably have tried this in the past, and get into operations somebody then puts a hand on your shoulder and says, I am sorry, politician, that is operational, that is not your area.

525 So we walk a fine line between the two. Myself and Deputy Leadbeater, we could probably go quite far into the construction industry. I can build a house, probably with my bare hands. And so can he. So we have got a good idea about construction, but we are not on that coalface. We are paying, as Deputy Ferbrache says, substantial funds to advisers to make sure we have the best information. When we get let down, we get let down badly.

530 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Burford.

**Deputy Burford:** Thank you, madam.

535 Does Deputy Brouard have any comments on the fact that in the 2019 Hospital modernisation policy letter, the cost of phase two and three combined, which is what is now called phase two was just under £50 million and now it is looking as though it is going to be a 300% increase at £150 million?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

540 **Deputy Brouard:** Exactly the point that I mentioned earlier that the earlier figures were around £50 million, £60 million for the extension. A lot has happened in the last five years. The more detailed designs have been done. The specifications of hospitals have changed. You want a modern, up to date facility. And I think there are not many projects I know that start off with one figure, and it is less when you come to build it, which I think is taking Deputy Taylor's point.

545 We have to manage them as best as we can. And if we find that we are going to go over the envelope, we will come back to this States with hopefully a much firmer figure because this is an iterative process. The first bit was the £50 million. Do we want to go ahead? People said yes. We said yes at £120 million. You will have a decision to make whether it is we can get in for £118 million or £121 million.

550 Those will be the choices that will be coming up. But it is an iterative figure. As we go through each of the design phases and move up to full business case, you may not, or P&R may not approve the full business case. In which case, well, heaven help you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Taylor, and this will be the last question. But I remind everybody, there are a lot of questions from Deputy St Pier coming down the track, and so you may have an opportunity to ask questions then.

555 So, Deputy Taylor.

**Deputy Taylor:** Thank you, madam.

560 I suppose following on from the question by Deputy Ferbrache, who I think rightly points out the failings in the Civil Service, but my experience, my very limited experience of construction projects within the States is that behind those civil servants there is another layer of private practice, be it architects, quantity surveyors, engineers who are providing information to the management board. Could Deputy Brouard confirm if there is another layer of advisers that have been involved in this and if any commercial contracts have been ended as a result of this change in circumstances?

565 Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

570 **Deputy Brouard:** Yes, there is a professional firm of advisers. I am not aware at this stage of whether any of the contracts have been changed, but the next few months is where we are going to be looking at that particular area to see how we can make improvements. But thank you for that question.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you, Deputy Brouard.

#### **General update – Statement by the President of the Committee *for* Economic Development**

575 **The Deputy Bailiff:** I will now turn to Deputy Inder, on behalf of the Committee *for* Economic Development.

Deputy Inder.

580 **Deputy Inder:** Madam Deputy Bailiff, Members of the States.

I will update the Assembly on a number of work streams that the Committee *for* Economic Development is currently progressing. But before I do so I would like to comment on Guernsey's overall economic performance.

585 The good news is that Guernsey's total gross domestic product in 2022 was £3.35 billion, which is 11% higher than the estimate for 2021 in nominal terms and 4% higher in real terms. That means that the total value of goods and services produced in the economy grew by 4% after taking account of inflation.

590 That is a testament to the strength of our post-COVID recovery and the resilience of our economy. A key element of Guernsey's economic growth can be attributed to the performance of our finance sector. The financial and insurance sector contributed the highest proportion,

£1.3 billion, or 38% of total GDP, in 2022. If you include legal and accounting activities, GDP increases to an estimated £1.5 billion. That is roughly 45% of the Island's entire economic output.

As Members who attended the briefing by Guernsey Finance in January will know, the significant additional investment into our marketing that was agreed by the Committee of Policy & Resources is bearing fruit. I will not list them all. But recent new business has included two new investment managers, a new Guernsey life branch, a new trust company licence and a number of new fund structures. This is really good news for Guernsey and is a real sign of the confidence that investors have in this Island.

Members will also be aware that there have been challenges for local banking services. The number of licensed banks has fallen and, in respect of the provision of banking services, there have been concerns in relation to alleged delays in account opening times for some local businesses, customers and concerns about the availability of credit cards for local residents.

In response, the Committee commissioned Deloitte to undertake a strategic review of the local banking sector to identify and investigate some of those challenges and make recommendations on how to address them. Members of the Assembly were invited to a briefing on the findings in February. You will be pleased to know that the review is almost complete, and we will then be consulting with the banks and the regulator, as well as business bodies, on how we take the recommendations forward.

In relation to access to credit, one of the barriers that has been identified has been the difficulty which credit reference agencies have in confirming the names and addresses of local residents as part of their due diligence to issue credit cards. I am pleased to report that the Committee for Home Affairs has made real progress in this area, and the Assembly will be debating a policy letter to establish an electronic Electoral Roll ahead of the 2025 General Election at this States' Meeting.

If approved, the policy letter will also enable credit reference agencies to access data contained within the new Electoral Roll from 1st December 2024, and I must congratulate Deputy Prow and the Committee for Home Affairs on this excellent piece of collaborative work, which our Committee wholeheartedly supports, and I hope that the whole Assembly will support this policy letter.

Members will be aware that the Committee has political oversight of the Office of the Public Trustee. I would like to put on record this Committee's sincere thanks to Mr Luis Gonzalez, the current Public Trustee, who will be stepping down at the end of his term in April. The Committee has nominated Mr Brian Williams, the current Deputy Public Trustee, to take over, and the States will ask to approve that appointment shortly.

The Committee has commissioned an independent review of the Office of the Public Trustee to ensure that it remains fit for purpose. This incorporates a view of its mandate, funding and oversight. The review is underway and I will update the Assembly in due course on the review's findings, and we expect as a Committee to receive that within the next month or so.

Of significant interest to Members and the wider community is that of our sea links. I have been working closely with my Jersey counterpart, Deputy Kirsten Morrel, in order to ensure that we have considered both the short-term challenges and the long-term opportunities in respect of our life line sea links on a pan-Channel Island basis.

In January and working closely with Jersey, the Committee decided to commence a pan-Island market testing and tender process to secure a long-term ferry operator for March 2025 and onwards. We are near completion of the first stage of market testing. I am pleased to say that we have had multiple expressions of interest, including the incumbent operator, so we can proceed with confidence that we are testing the market effectively and with integrity.

Next month, we will issue a joint invitation to tender covering areas such as resilience, reliability, passenger experience and financial sustainability. Guernsey and Jersey's collective view, and this is important, is that one market with one opportunity will provide the best long-term solution for our Island's sea links. And I would like to thank the former and the current Policy & Resources for their support on this process, which is one of the most significant pieces of work for this Committee.

Members will be aware that Aurigny has established six new air routes for 2024, including London Stansted and Edinburgh, a new direct link to Paris, which the Committee has supported

with route development funding. I am pleased to report that the initial bookings for Paris route are looking strong, and the Committee is keen to invest in marketing to bring additional visitors to Guernsey via the new air routes, to maximise the benefit to our local economy.

There has been some criticism of last year's visitor numbers, but it is important to put our visitor numbers into context and to recognise that most jurisdictions are still on a recovery path following the post-COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023, there were approximately 215,000 visitors to Guernsey, excluding visitors from cruise ships and visiting yachts and long stay visitors, compared to 279,000 in 2019 before the COVID pandemic, an overall reduction of 23% over the four-year period.

However, it is important to note that many jurisdictions have not yet fully recovered to their pre-pandemic levels of visitors. Jersey has also seen an overall reduction of 32% in its visitor numbers in 2023 compared to 2019, suggesting that Guernsey's tourism sector is recovering well or at least on a par.

The Committee has established an industry led Tourism Management Board, which will shortly be publishing its Tourism Strategy and which in 2023 allocated the Committee's events budget and a new Tourism Product Development Fund. The Committee has also budgeted to invest £1.6 million in marketing Guernsey as a visitor destination in 2024. This is a significant investment and I am confident this year will be a strong tourism season.

There are many other areas of the Committee's mandate on digital enterprise and skills that I could talk to if time allowed. Fibre broadband rollout continues apace and at the end of February, 18,000 premises representing half the Island's properties are now fibre ready, with almost 10,000 properties already connected to the fibre service. Good news indeed.

The Committee is also working on a two-year pilot for a Guernsey Enterprise investment scheme. Work continues on the Skills Strategy implementation and this is with the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture.

Housing. A key constraint for the economy is the lack of available housing. For all the effort by this Government of driving the building of either social or affordable housing, the Committee has concerns around the weighting towards key workers. The Island's greatest export was flowers and tomatoes when I was growing up. And I am worried it is starting to look like 20- to 30-year-olds.

Housing and the delivery of it is not just for key workers. If we learned anything from COVID, it is that there was no such thing as unskilled labour. All workers are important. All our sons, all our daughters need an Island that they can call their own. And I would encourage Government not to forget who built this Island and our obligation to ensure that all Islanders have a future here.

In conclusion, there is much to be positive about. The economy has recovered strongly post-COVID and the finance sector is showing strong economic growth and a very solid pipeline of new business. The Committee is investing in air route development and is working closely with Jersey to secure the Island's sea links. The tourism sector is recovering well relative to our major competitors and our circumstances.

There are challenges, not least in terms of access to affordable housing and the availability of labour, and in terms of access to some banking services for local residents and businesses. But the Committee is proactively tackling these challenges and is working jointly with other Committees to find solutions.

Madam Deputy Bailiff, Members, I look forward to answering any questions that Members may have.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Before I open up to questions, Deputy Le Tocq, do you wish to be relevé?

**Deputy Le Tocq:** Thank you, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you. Yes.  
Yes, Deputy Leadbeater.

695 **Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, madam.

I want to talk about the blue economy, and I would like the President to give me an update on his Committee's discussions with DEFRA in respect of our anglers having access to catch and release tagging schemes for tuna and our fleet potentially having some quota.

Thank you.

700 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

705 **Deputy Inder:** Yes, I thought some aspect of question might come up. We sent a press release out, I think it was on 31st January. There is a potential for our fleet or if not our anglers, to access the bluefin, but it is really prerequisite on joining the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, basically ICCAT, which this Committee has agreed.

It will involve compliance and legal work and, as Deputy Leadbeater says, it will be involved with DEFRA. Currently in the UK, there is a limit, a limited UK quota of 65 tonnes for 2024. And it is therefore likely that only a very limited commercial recreation catch and release fishery – catch and release fishery that is important – will be possible in the Bailiwick, but the Committee is taking necessary steps to examine options. But I cannot guarantee we will be ready for this season. But we are making efforts.

715 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Cameron.

**Deputy Cameron:** Thank you, madam, and I thank Deputy Inder for his update.

The Jersey Consumer Council has recently reached out to mortgage providers requesting justification of the elevated borrowing costs in Jersey compared to those offered by their UK parent lenders. Can Deputy Inder provide reassurances to Islanders that his Committee, via Trading Standards Services, has undertaken similar enquiries?

720 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

725 **Deputy Inder:** I am grateful for that question from Deputy Cameron because often the case is you prepare for statements and things turn up two or three days later that you have got to answer. But if it helps, if nothing else, I am certainly an active President. As soon as I heard that, I instructed our Committee secretary to write to the JCC, asking them whether they might share the findings of their review. I can confirm that we have had a response from the JCC, and in the first instance, they have agreed that over the coming weeks, they will share with the Committee the findings that they have had at the moment. So we are certainly on that.

730 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gabriel.

**Deputy Gabriel:** Thank you, madam. I thank the President for his update.

735 I would like to ask him about how the Committee plan to discharge its mandate in respect to sea fisheries, given that it is my understanding that the vessel *Leopardess'* code of compliance certificate expired at the end of December last year, which in real terms means it cannot put to sea or patrol until a survey or new certificate is issued by an authority recognised by the MCA. And that certificate will only be issued after a full survey. So the question is how will he plan to discharge its mandate with a vessel that cannot go to sea?

740 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** Deputy Gabriel kindly gave me forewarning of this question, but it comes to something when a member of a Committee, a third party Committee, finds out an operational

update, that there might be a problem with the vessel, which is under the mandate of Home Affairs and Economic Development.

But after that question was asked, I have sent an email off. It is correct that this Committee did not know until we were informed by Deputy Gabriel, or I was informed by Deputy Gabriel last night, and then I informed my Committee about two hours later. Fairly disappointing. But it does look ... he is right, that by the end of 2024, I understand Treasury have agreed to the refurbishment of the vessel. And I think it comes out of the Seized Assets Funds. I think I am correct.

There is a note attached to it, and only from the brief, it looks like the vessel will be back in 2024. But the question is what we do in between? And I have asked that question of officers. He is absolutely right, the boat is out of service, it is not there. What do we do? Do we talk to Jersey? Do we charter our own boat? Right now, I just do not know. But I thank him for giving me notice of that question. I am disappointed that we were not informed.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Dudley-Owen.

**Deputy Dudley-Owen:** Thank you, madam.

Thank you to the President for his update and noting that he is an active President, can he please let the Assembly know what work his Committee is doing following the announcement of the abolition of the non-dom regime with effect from 6th April 2025, which was recently announced in the UK spring Budget?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** I can answer that. In as much as that I wrote after hearing that with that particular piece of the Budget also relates to Guernsey, and I have had a response from our Director of Financial Services. He has been in contact with the GAT Chair and the Director General of the GFSC. At the moment, and this is first dibs, it is difficult to assess the impact on Guernsey at this moment and the thinking is still evolving.

There is almost inevitably going to be some form of ripple effect. And has got follow up calls with local tax advisors. And of course, we will be talking to our NSNs. But right now, I have no clarity on the matter because I do not think the Budget response is entirely clear. But we are giving that great consideration and what effect it may or may not have on our Island.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier.

**Deputy St Pier:** Thank you, madam.

Does the President and the Committee believe that there is any future for the cannabis industry in Guernsey, be that growing or processing?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** Yes, I do. And to remind Members it is important to say that the cannabis industry strategy is not an Economic Development strategy, it is a cannabis industry strategy. And I think the Channel Island Cannabis Association came to us for fear of, I can repeat it because I have been asked the same question so many times I actually remember this one, when we first came into office, we were asked to unlock the cultivation licences. We did that. We were then asked to look at the MOU and we have done that.

So at the moment I believe – I am going to check – there are one or two licences ... sorry, there is only one licence at the moment. So we have done what we have had to do, and we have created the framework. Within the terms of the MOU, we have allowed the industry to do what it can do. I understand the investment is still ongoing. So to answer Deputy St Pier's question, I think there is a future, but I do not think it is going to be as big as what was once thought.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Queripel.

800 **Deputy Queripel:** Madam, I was pleased to hear Deputy Inder say that the focus for providing housing should not be just on housing for key workers, but for locals as well. So my question is, does this Committee have any idea how providing housing for locals can be accelerated?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

805

**Deputy Inder:** Under Government policy, we are in this strange position where economic developments – to be honest with you, it is not just an Economic Development thing – no one in this Assembly does not understand that we need more housing. And there have been market failures. It is a fact.

810 But in policy terms, the only consideration this Assembly got is actually social housing. Their main consideration is social housing. So from an Economic Development point of view, there is very little we can do to assist the private side, with the exception of feeding into any future IDP review. And I think that is the extent this Committee and any other Member can bring forward.

815 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Haskins.

**Deputy Haskins:** Thank you, madam.

I believe the Director General of the GFSC made a statement saying AI will lead to the transformation of business in the Guernsey finance industry. So given the advancements of artificial intelligence, the exponential pace of these, the effect that it is already having on economies around the world and the fact that it will and is a profound effect, it will come as no surprise to the President, especially as there was no mention in his Statement, I would like to ask him for an update on how he is keeping ahead of developments in artificial intelligence.

820 Thank you.

825

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** Through the Digital Greenhouse.

830 It is not up to Government to do absolutely everything. We fund the Digital Greenhouse to the tune of around half a million pounds a year. And the – I am going to say chief officer – she has done a fantastic job at, and I think we both attended, myself and Deputy Haskins attended, the Innovation Summit.

835 It is entirely up to Government to connect to the regulatory work, the innovation via the Digital Greenhouse, the protection of data as well, which is all mentioned. And only after that do we look at regulation. My view is quite simple, as it is with everything, I really do want to keep Government out of business, and I have every confidence that Digital Greenhouse are driving that forward under and through the digital leadership of Deputy Kazantseva-Miller.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

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**Deputy Gollop:** Former States' Member Deputy Quin once called me, the Harry Potter of the States. Well we were intrigued that distinguished woman, J. K. Rowling, came to the Islands and to Sark recently attending events, and *The Guernsey Press* commented that a film of her detective story may be done in Sark. Would Economic Development put more energy into helping the Islands become a film and TV location in the way that has been successful for the Isle of Man and Jersey?

845

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** It is easy for me to say yes, Deputy Gollop, and I can sit down and that is the end of it. Job done. Next question. The reality is we have not given this an awful lot of consideration over the last three years. And I will not pretend that we have. And we are unlikely to give it an awful lot of consideration in the next 15 months over the amount of work that this Committee has to do.

If a future Committee wants to give that consideration but while I have my hand on this helm for however long that might be, I will never put public money into high risk ventures. I would rather put it on the Crown and Anchor at the North Show or the Viaër Marchi.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gabriel.

**Deputy Gabriel:** Thank you, madam.

Jersey has included in their strategic infrastructure plan a fixed link to France and when questioned after a presentation by Nordic tunnelling experts Deputy Morrel, your counterpart, Deputy Inder, is quoted in the *JEP* as saying the Islands could not leave it until it was too late to start making critical decisions. Every day it becomes slightly more serious.

After the same presentation here in Guernsey what are Economic Development's planned next steps for any Guernsey/Jersey tunnel?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** Before the presentation I knew the team were coming to Guernsey and we as a Committee did meet them. And I think Guernsey is an Island of hospitality.

Before that meeting, I did speak via email through Deputy Morrel and I understand that they have got something called a fail fast project, which effectively is a short project to work out if this will work or not.

However, we as a Committee think, and read nothing more into this, that if something like this project is ever going to happen it would make some sense to Guernsey to be involved in some way, shape or form.

So to answer Deputy Gabriel's question, I am in the process of writing a letter to find out what extent Guernsey could have involvement in the thinking of that project. But that is as far as I go. But I will remind Members and I will give them a fair warning that if – and I am hugely emphasising the if here; Jersey is a bigger Island with a shorter tunnel, Guernsey is a smaller Island with a longer tunnel – if this is ever going to happen, it is more likely to happen from Jersey first.

And if – this is real emphasis on if, because I know the media listen, the next thing I know 'Inder is behind the tunnel', I am not – if it ever happens there are considerable risks and it changes absolutely everything. But to answer Deputy Gabriel's question, I am writing to Deputy Morrel and seeing if we cannot set up some grouping to discuss this generally.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Matthews.

**Deputy Matthews:** Thank you, madam.

I heard the President's concerns about the key worker housing emphasis, but would the President agree with me that some key worker housing can enable better, more efficient use of space, such as the recently approved, yesterday, Domaine des Moulins at the former CI Tyres site, which then in turn frees up space in the private market?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** I think Deputy Matthews connected something between space and key workers. Therefore, if you are a foreign worker, the space efficiencies must be better in their buildings. I think he said that. So I do not agree with him. I am afraid the reality is, the question Deputy Matthews

may want to ask himself is what is in it for Guernsey? Where do the people of Guernsey benefit from the Domaine des Moulins? But my view is quite simple. There is too much talk about key workers and not enough talk about the native population of this Island.

905       **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Matthews. You stood up, you sat down again. Sorry.

**Deputy Matthews:** Oh, sorry. I was going to raise, I guess, a point of correction that I did not say anything about the use of space –

910       **The Deputy Bailiff:** No point of corrections I am afraid, Deputy Matthews. You will just have to ask another question. But you have lost your chance now.  
          Deputy Leadbeater.

**Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Bailiff.

915       Given Deputy Inder's position and his Committee's position on the arguments over key worker as opposed to local housing, would he agree with me that, bearing in mind we have got our social housing and private rental, there are big waiting lists for the sparse amount of units that may become available, and we have not just got a housing crisis, we have got a homeless issue as well now, wouldn't he agree with me that it would have been far better to put our essential worker  
920       housing for the Hospital on the Hospital campus, thus allowing the units at Charroterie to be used for those desperately needing Local Market, hopefully, tenants?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder, is this really your remit? Are we going beyond Economic Development?

925       **Deputy Inder:** I am quite happy to answer it, even if you do not think it is my remit. I may not be answering on behalf of the Committee –

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Well, in that case, Deputy Inder, I do not think it is appropriate then for the  
930       question to be asked. And I do not think you should answer either. So I will ask Deputy Oliver to ask her question.

**Deputy Oliver:** Thank you, madam.

          You mentioned you were looking at new contracts for Condor and a number of other people  
935       were interested in it. When looking for that and doing the procurement, will you be looking at actually making it easier for local people to be able to get to Jersey to do a day trip, get to England to do a day trip, because at the moment that is what really seems to be missing on the Island?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

940       **Deputy Inder:** Yes, I have got to be a bit careful, but what I can inform Deputy Victoria Oliver, the States' Members and of course the wider audience is that both Islands have entirely different challenges. Almost certainly Jersey has got major concerns about its southern route: what was effectively a taxi service between St Helier and St Malo under the *Rapide* and that they are not happy  
945       about the service here.

          We clearly have not been particularly happy about the service that we have had between the Islands. But in short it really is an open tender and actually and I will inform Members as well, we are not looking at any of those who have expressed interest into specifying, with the exception of ramp offloading, what vessels we might need. If they all want to do fast ferries, then we will listen;  
950       if they want to do conventionals and a mix and match, we will listen. The model is open and free for anyone to apply for and express that interest.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Taylor.

955 **Deputy Taylor:** Thank you, madam.

There has been a lot of talk about key worker housing and whatnot, so I know that between 2016 and 2023, the median earnings in the construction industry have reduced in real terms, and the construction industry itself has shrunk by 15%. So I would like to know what positive initiatives the Committee for Economic Development are currently progressing to develop the construction industry.

960 Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

965 **Deputy Inder:** The construction industry survives on two things: confidence, land use and the ability of the people, the residents of this Island, to spend money on their houses. The second bit they do is to ensure that they have got a constant stream of work from Government. So as long as Government is pipelining works through, it is that which keeps the construction industry going.

970 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Blin.

**Deputy Blin:** Thank you, madam.

I thank Deputy Inder for his Statement. The Tourism Management Board (TMB), has been in operation for over a year now. So I would be grateful if Deputy Inder could tell us about, in summary, 975 the success of what it has been achieving. Also recently, I believe that there were two seminars that were meant to take place to work more on the final thoughts on it; I believe one of them was postponed. Which leads to when will the strategy be delivered? We are coming close to less than 15 months to go before the end of the term.

We do have tourism. We do have the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings. We have recently 980 seen the issue over the Herm contracts being stopped from going there due to Brexit rules. So there is a lot happening and a lot is key around the TMB and also the plan of where will it go and does he see an answering body.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

985 **Deputy Inder:** I do actually. I think I am going to try and drill into one of the questions he asked, in the middle of that was about the one ... there were two cancellations that was generally down to the – and I do not like talking about doing what Deputy Meerveld did in the Assembly, talking about individuals – but effectively, there was a reason for those to be missed and it was due to an illness 990 and I will leave it at that. So they were cancelled for that reason.

The TMB itself works and I have explained – in fact, I think Deputy Blin was at the presentation from Mrs Beacom some few months ago and I think we got a quite good response – and where it does actually work is that you have got multiple parts of the industry by sector in that board. That is entirely working. But to answer his direct question, again, this is more my fault and I will have to 995 take some responsibility for that, is that the Tourism Strategy has been a long wait, and I am under every confidence now because I am running out of possibly my own patience, to be perfectly frank with you, having to give dates to everyone. We understand that by May; and it will be published and, importantly for Deputy Blin's response, it will be in conjunction with the industry.

I hope that has answered his question, but I will take another one if I have not, directly.

1000

**The Deputy Bailiff:** We have done our 20 minutes of questions, but we will go on for another five minutes because I think there is still an appetite for further questions.

Deputy Leadbeater.

1005 **Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, madam.

Given the President mentioned key worker housing opposed to Local Market housing in his Statement, in his update, would the President not agree with me we are better putting our key worker housing for Hospital workers on the Hospital campus, thus freeing up the Charroterie flats for local people?

1010

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Leadbeater, I am terribly sorry, that still is not a question for Economic Development. You are asking to –

**Deputy Leadbeater:** Madam, he mentioned in his Statement.

1015

**The Deputy Bailiff:** But it is not under Economic Development's control about what happens to that housing. So I am afraid I am not going to allow that question.

Deputy St Pier.

1020 **Deputy St Pier:** Thank you, madam.

Given the announcement of recent cancellation of charters from Jersey to Herm, will the Committee undertake to perhaps work with the Committee *for* Home Affairs and others to investigate whether the solution, which appears to work between Sark and Jersey, might have application between Herm and Jersey in order to ensure no further economic loss to the Bailiwick?

1025 Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

1030 **Deputy Inder:** It is worth mentioning that Sark is a separate jurisdiction to Jersey where Herm forms part of the Bailiwick. But to answer his question, yes, we have already had a bit of a communication on the matter, between I think it came from Deputy Soulsby and Deputy Prow, and I will not go into the detail because I have just forgotten it. It is as simple as that.

But to answer Deputy St Pier's question, I will take it up and try and get a little bit more detail, with Home. But I do not have the answer for it right now.

1035

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Mahoney.

**Deputy Mahoney:** Thank you, madam.

1040 Just very briefly back to the tunnel, which worries me horribly. All it seems to take is some slick presentation these days, and various people start dribbling over the prospects of free and easy travel anywhere in the world. Given this is likely to be an incredibly multi-billion pound project with zero chances of real success, could the President confirm whether, whilst he is in charge of ED, at least, and the budget under his control, that no public money will be wasted on this project? Or is it the position of ED that they would spend public money investigating the improbability of this tunnel ever happening?

1045

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

1050 **Deputy Inder:** The position is at the moment, far from me to not answer a question, the position is I am in the process of doing what I said I would do, writing to Jersey, asking what their position is at the moment and whether there is any value in the two Islands talking together. There is no mention of money exchange. I am purely in the letter writing process.

1055 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Taylor.

**Deputy Taylor:** Thank you, madam.

I think we have all heard Deputy Inder previously say that it is all about the economy, and I think we can all agree in here that the economy will be held up from growing if there is not the adequate provision of housing. So, following on from my previous question, for absolute clarity, I am trying to seek confirmation that the Committee with responsibility for developing the economy have no current work stream looking at addressing the seven-year decline of the construction industry that we rely on for building houses to grow the economy.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** Deputy Meerveld, not Deputy Meerveld, Deputy Vermeulen – easy mistake to make! Deputy Vermeulen is gesturing to me, but right now, to answer his question, there is no entirely current strategy. I am not going to ask Deputy Vermeulen to interject because he cannot. But I will get a response to Deputy Taylor later on.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Kazantseva-Miller.

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Would the President agree that as part of the amendment to the tax debate that I laid with Deputy de Sausmarez about looking at capital expenditure, actually P&R provided us information that construction industry jobs track economic activity, which very much relates to capital expenditure by Government?

So it supports what the President said that actually construction jobs follow the level of economic activity that exists or are a proxy to the level projects that are in the economy and very much reflect that. So there is not much we can do unless there is actually also economic activity on the Island.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** I thank Deputy Kazantseva-Miller for that question.

Yes, she is absolutely right. And I think it is how I answered the question the first instance. But Deputy Taylor has asked me a question, Deputy Vermeulen is gesticulating to me. So I am quite happy to write to Deputy Taylor and all Members later on. But Deputy Kazantseva-Miller is spot on. No economic activity, no building. The more economic activity, the more building. It seems really quite simple.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** This is the last question.

Deputy Vermeulen.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** Thank you, madam.

Would the President agree with me that the construction industry on the Island is in a very healthy state and that negotiations with the States about the pipeline of schools and hospitals has never been communicated better by the industry, and that they are very confident with where they currently are.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** Actually I do agree with Deputy Vermeulen and it has reminded me, I wrote an email to Deputy Taylor, actually, and all the other Members of the DPA; my feedback from the construction sector is that they are very positive about the general pipe works going through the

economy at the moment. Particularly, they have been saying good things about the DPA, which surprised me more than anyone else. No, that is not true!

1110 And particularly – and a lot of this was generally in the tourism sector and the development of hotels and various sites – there has been a lot of positivity expressed towards the activity of this term of Government under Deputy Victoria Oliver’s leadership, along with the Members. And the messaging is the right thing to say. This Island is moving on. We are seeing construction going up everywhere, admittedly commercial, less so in domestic. But I think Guernsey, whether we like it or not and whether the media likes it or not, we are on the right path.

1115 Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you, Deputy Inder.

1120 As Members will recall, at the last Meeting, you agreed that the President for P&R would give his first update on behalf of P&R after lunch. So we will move onto questions next.

## Questions for Oral Answer

### COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION, SPORT & CULTURE

#### La Mare de Carteret High School – Student and staff parking; general provision for state-maintained versus independent schools

**The Deputy Bailiff:** We will move on to questions next. And I will ask Deputy Matthews to pose his question to the President of the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture.

Thank you.

1125 **Deputy Matthews:** Thank you, madam.

Will the President confirm that sixth form students will not be allowed to park at La Mare de Carteret High School, under the current plans to move the sixth form from Les Varendes and that this has the potential to be a serious problem for beach goers if sixth form students use the popular nearby beach car parks during the day?

1130

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Dudley-Owen.

**Deputy Dudley-Owen:** Thank you, madam.

1135 Our analysis shows that there is some capacity to allow on-site student parking and we are exploring all options. Our primary objective will be to develop further sustainable access strategies, encouraging our sixth form community to travel actively and sustainably. These measures will minimise overspill into neighbourhood parking and we will, of course, be encouraging travel to the site that aligns with the on-Island Integrated Transport Strategy.

1140 I would remind Deputy Matthews that public car parks are exactly that, public. It is my understanding that beach car parks are busier when students are not in school, for example during the summer holidays.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you. Is this is a supplementary question, Deputy Matthews?

1145 **Deputy Matthews:** Yes, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Supplementary question, then, Deputy Matthews.

**Deputy Matthews:** I will try a supplementary question.

1150 I suppose the obvious question would be that if the limited space at La Mare de Carteret is used for student parking, then would there be sufficient space for staff car parking on site?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Dudley-Owen.

1155 **Deputy Dudley-Owen:** Thank you, madam. Thank you to Deputy Matthews for his question.

Of course. In my view, we should be prioritising staff car parking and we should be facilitating additional car parking where possible for visitors and for students to the school where possible. At the moment, those students for the Sixth Form Centre are catered for, to a degree, at the Footes Lane car park. But of course, what we do want to be ultimately encouraging is alternative travel choices.

1160

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Is this a supplementary question or your next question?

**Deputy Matthews:** It is a second supplementary, if I may.

1165 It is the observation of some of those who use the car parking at La Mare de Carteret that it can become chaotic and disorganised at pick up times and not really able to cope. Does the President have confidence that any arrangement, any new arrangements following an increase in volume, if the sixth form is relocated there, will be practical?

1170 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Dudley-Owen.

**Deputy Dudley-Owen:** Yes.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop, is this a supplementary question?

1175

**Deputy Gollop:** Yes.  
Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you, Deputy Gollop.

1180

**Deputy Gollop:** Both myself and Deputy Matthews support, and are involved with, Living Streets and therefore I welcome the answers of the President, including particularly alternative modes of transport and active travel. Will such work involve not only encouragement of cycling and electric bikes, maybe, but also improved bus services, because sometimes the coastal routes, especially in the summer, are full of cruise liner passengers? So there may need to be liaison with Environment & Infrastructure to secure improved public access services.

1185

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Dudley-Owen.

1190 **Deputy Dudley-Owen:** Yes.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Taylor, supplementary question.

**Deputy Taylor:** Thank you, madam.

1195 Just from the President's first answer, she has identified that there is some capacity and the Committee are exploring all options. I wonder if the President would give a commitment or confirmation that those options will not result, or hopefully will not result, in any loss of amenity space or outdoor space for recreation for people attending the school.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Dudley-Owen.

1200

**Deputy Dudley-Owen:** Thank you to Deputy Taylor for his question.

Obviously, the traffic impact assessment is a really important piece of work, as it runs alongside a lot of other practical transformation work that we are undertaking and we would be working within the scope of what we have got already for the parking on site rather than taking valuable amenity land.

1205

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you.

Deputy Gabriel, supplementary question.

1210

**Deputy Gabriel:** Thank you.

In the President's response, she mentioned that takes into account the on-Island Integrated Transport Strategy, given that solo car use is the lowest denominator, I suppose, or in the hierarchy of vehicle use and active travel, how are they promoting other aspects of travel at this school and others?

1215

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Dudley-Owen.

**Deputy Dudley-Owen:** I am sorry I did not really hear Deputy Gabriel's question, especially the last bit. Could he repeat, please?

1220

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Would you kindly repeat it, please, Deputy Gabriel?

**Deputy Gabriel:** In summary, how is the President and her Committee ensuring that the Integrated Transport Strategy hierarchy is being rolled out at this school and others?

1225

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Dudley-Owen.

**Deputy Dudley-Owen:** Well, thank you to Deputy Gabriel for his question.

Of course, the ownership of the on-Island Integrated Transport Strategy sits with his Committee, and our officers who work on the Transformation project in conjunction with officers on his Committee will be ensuring that in working towards the principles of that Strategy we are paying good attention to the hierarchy.

1230

**The Deputy Bailiff:** If there are no further supplementary questions, I will ask Deputy Matthews to pose a second question to Deputy Dudley-Owen.

1235

**Deputy Matthews:** Thank you, madam.

The recently released second annual report on our Education Strategy restates equity as a top priority, but almost exclusively reports on the performance of the state-maintained sector and not the independent schools, which account for almost a third of secondary education in Guernsey.

1240

Does the Committee acknowledge a growing disparity between the provision in state-maintained schools and independent schools? And, if so, is the Committee ambitious to close the gap?

1245

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Dudley-Owen.

**Deputy Dudley-Owen:** Thank you.

No, we do not acknowledge a growing disparity, and we are ambitious and aspire to excellence for every student in our schools. We must not confuse equity with equality, i.e. fairness versus

1250 sameness. We deploy our limited resources strategically as we strive to meet learners' diverse needs. That is equitable as opposed to a one-size-fits-all approach.

As the colleges do not cater for learners with the breadth of needs and abilities seen in our state schools, it is neither logical nor helpful to draw direct comparisons, as the provision in each sector is not equitable when considered collectively. Other than external examination results needed for national reporting, the colleges are not obliged to provide performance data to the Education Office, and they produce their own annual reports.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** First supplementary question, Deputy Matthews.

1260 **Deputy Matthews:** Thank you, madam.

Many parents might consider it so plain that it almost does not need measuring that in secondary education and for example, specifically in Key Stage Five in particular, that while provision at the Grammar School, as it was, could have been considered at least equal, if not better than the independent schools, the current arrangements are less so. Is the President concerned that relocating the sixth form will be seen as a downgrade that further exacerbates the divide and could lead us to a two tier society?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Dudley-Owen.

1270 **Deputy Dudley-Owen:** No.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Second supplementary question.

1275 **Deputy Matthews:** The President says that she is ambitious to deliver excellence. Yet the Education Strategy annual report says that the focus for 2023 remained ensuring that all schools were evaluated as at least good in the quality of education indicator. Does the President share my concern that providing state education that is simply 'good enough' is a low bar and unacceptable when around a third of families who can afford it opt out of the state system altogether?

1280 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Dudley-Owen.

**Deputy Dudley-Owen:** I think that Deputy Matthews maybe has a simplistic view of the Ofsted inspection framework, and I would be delighted for him to come into the Committee to understand the complexity behind the framework and the metrics by which our schools are inspected upon.

1285 Questions coming forward from Deputy St Pier on Rule 14s will help to give some light on that matter shortly, which will be very helpful for Deputy Matthews. We build on progress. We do not go for unrealistic targets. Whilst we are aspiring to excellence, we need to build up to that point and improve on in the journey of improvement that we have set ourselves this term we need to be realistic with our targets but still aspirational.

## **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

### **UK Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill – Use of permissive extent clause; lack of consultation by UK government**

1290 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Onto Deputy St Pier's questions to the Policy & Resources Committee. Deputy Soulsby will be on the answering on behalf of the Committee.

**Deputy St Pier:** Thank you, madam.

1295 What consultation was undertaken by His Majesty's Government with the States of Guernsey prior to the inclusion of a permitted extent clause, which is clause 12, in the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Soulsby.

1300

**Deputy Soulsby:** Thank you, madam.

The Bill was developed quickly in response to a Supreme Court judgment in December 2023, in response to the Court's finding in relation to the legality of the Rwanda Scheme and the Illegal Migration Act 2023.

1305 Due to the haste in putting it together, the UK government did not consult widely, including with any of the Crown Dependencies, in relation to the inclusion of a permissive extent clause. The inclusion of a PEC in an Act of Parliament usually takes place following consultation with the States of Guernsey, via the Policy & Resources Committee. The Committee is also required to submit to the States of Deliberation any proposal to extend a provision of an Act of Parliament to Guernsey by Order in Council, including in exercise of a PEC, so that the States may signify their views on it under Article 72(A) of the Reform (Guernsey) Law, 1948, as amended.

1310

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Any supplementary questions?

Would you like to pose your second question?

1315

**Deputy St Pier:** I would, madam.

What representations have been made by the States of Guernsey, and to whom, in respect of the inclusion of a permitted extent clause in the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill?

1320 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Soulsby.

**Deputy Soulsby:** Officials from the States of Guernsey have raised concerns about the lack of consultation. The matter has also been considered by the Committee *for* Home Affairs. It should be noted that the Rwanda Bill relates to immigration matters and the operation of the Illegal Migration Act 2023. Part of that Act has direct application to Guernsey, and the remainder of that act is subject to a PEC.

1325

The States of Guernsey have also sought assurance about the reasons for the inclusion of the PEC in the Rwanda Bill. These assurances were laid out by His Majesty's Government in the House of Lords and have been recorded on *Hansard* at HL 6 March 2024, volume 836, column 1630.

1330

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Are these supplementary questions?

**Deputy St Pier:** I have two supplementaries, madam. I am particularly grateful to Deputy Soulsby for that helpful reference.

1335 Madam, the response advises that officials have raised concerns about the lack of consultation. Has the Committee or will the Committee ensure that concerns about the lack of consultation are also raised at a political level?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Soulsby.

1340

**Deputy Soulsby:** I have just been advised by Deputy Le Tocq our External Relations Lead that we do intend to do that. I think it is also worth pointing out that more generally, in relation to the use of permissive extent clauses, the previous Policy & Resources, a letter of evidence was sent by the previous President to the Justice Committee setting out the concerns of that Committee to how the UK government have been dealing with permissive extent clauses; very strongly worded and I totally support what was written.

1345

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Second supplementary question, Deputy St Pier.

**Deputy St Pier:** Yes, madam.

1350 As there are likely to be some issues of significant concern in the parts of the Illegal Migration Act which do not yet have application to Guernsey, if there were an attempt to apply the permitted extent clause to us without consent, does the Vice-President agree with me that there must be consultation before any further parts of the Illegal Migration Act 2023, have any further application to Guernsey?

1355

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Soulsby.

**Deputy Soulsby:** Yes, I do, and, as I stated in my earlier question, any changes that the Government cannot legislate on our behalf. It has to be for the States of Deliberation. The Royal Court will not accept any changes unless the States of Deliberation have accepted them.

1360

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Your third question, Deputy St Pier.

**Deputy St Pier:** Thank you, madam.

1365 Given the inclusion of a permitted extent clause in the UK Fisheries Act 2020, without the prior consent of insular authorities in the Bailiwick, does the Committee have concerns that His Majesty's Government is stretching constitutional convention?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Soulsby.

1370

**Deputy Soulsby:** The Committee is concerned about the lack of consultation on the Inclusion of PECs in the Fisheries Act 2020 and the Rwanda Bill. However, the Committee is not concerned that His Majesty's Government is stretching the constitutional convention to allow the UK Parliament to legislate for Guernsey without the Island's consent with the PEC in respect of the Rwanda Bill.

1375

The inclusion of a PEC is not the same as legislating or even seeking to legislate without consent. The use of legislative powers in relation to Guernsey under a PEC engages the Article 72(A) procedure referred to earlier. In addition, it should be noted that historically, UK legislation relating to immigration matters has extended directly throughout the British Isles, including Guernsey.

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In the case of the Fisheries Act 2020, the States of Guernsey were consulted and they clearly and formally advised the UK that they did not want a PEC to be included. The UK government included the PEC, contrary to the wishes of the States of Guernsey. It was the expressed reasons cited by UK Ministers for inclusion of the PEC that caused significant concern in that case, namely, to allow the UK to be able to legislate without consent should it need to, in certain circumstances that related to the exercise of the UK's own international obligations.

1385

The Committee's concerns on this matter were laid out in evidence I have just mentioned to the House of Commons Justice Committee, during its current inquiry about the UK's relationship with the Crown Dependencies, and which is due to be reported shortly.

1390

**The Deputy St Pier:** Any supplementary questions? ... *[Inaudible]*

**COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE**

**Hospital Modernisation Programme –  
Revised phase two cost pressures**

**Deputy St Pier:** Thank you, madam.

1395 Given the President's Statement for which I am grateful, that will have addressed many of the likely supplementaries, I am sure Deputy Brouard will be delighted to know. So first of all, madam, when was any member of the Committee first made aware, including informally, of some significant cost pressures regarding phase two of the Hospital Modernisation Programme as a result of more detailed design?

1400 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** Thank you, madam. Thank you, Deputy St Pier.

1405 Committee Members had not been advised, formally or informally, of the revised estimates of phase two of our hospital modernisation and the resulting cost pressures prior to the initial briefing given to the Committee on 19th December 2023.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Any supplementary questions?  
Please pose your second question.

1410 **Deputy St Pier:** When was the Committee first formally made aware of some significant cost pressures regarding phase two of the Hospital Modernisation Programme, as a result of more detailed designs?

**Deputy Brouard:** Thank you.

1415 The Committee received an initial briefing presenting the revised estimate on 19th December 2023. The briefing indicated significant increased cost pressures for phase two of our Hospital Modernisation Programme.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Question three.

1420 **Deputy St Pier:** At the time of the Funding & Investment Plan debate in October 2023, was the President or any Member of the Committee privy to any information to suggest that there might be significant cost pressures regarding phase two of the Hospital Modernisation Programme?

1425 **Deputy Brouard:** No. No Member of the Committee was privy to information to indicate a revised estimate had produced a result that indicates a significant cost pressure for phase two of our Hospital Modernisation Programme at the time of the Funding & Investment Plan debate in October 2023.

1430 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Any supplementary questions?  
Yes, Deputy Dudley-Owen.

**Deputy Dudley-Owen:** Thank you.  
Were the cost pressures as a result of more detailed designs?

1435 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** That is basically one of the elements in it. As we work through from the outline business case, we had the plans, when the plans were then re-looked at again for all the different elements, that is where some of the cost pressures did come from.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gabriel, first supplementary question.

**Deputy Gabriel:** Thank you, madam.  
The President says that no Member of the Committee was privy to information. I would like to understand the governance arrangements around that and if they will improve, as clearly they were lacking?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** The governance around that will improve. But the programme board that is in place was also not advised at the time. So the programme board that we have in place did not have that information either.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** Like Deputy Kazantseva-Miller, I remember attending a presentation in September where there was an indication that the building firm was unable to give a clear undertaking perhaps that they could build within a cost envelope and that there was not certainty of contract.

Didn't that make Health & Social Care wonder if, by the time it got to be building and the next stage, that there would indeed be a potentially additional cost beyond the estimate given to States' Members, that there was a possibility, even in that stage of an increase in the cost, given the rise in construction industry costs generally, as there was not a set price at that time?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** Thank you.

The procurement for the States for a Hospital is a long and ongoing process. There are many hurdles to come through. There are prices put in at different points. When you start off the project, you have an estimate of how much you think it is going to cost. You go to the outline business case to give you a bit more of a firmer idea to see whether or not it is a project that you want to do.

It is iterative. As you go from one path to the next, as Deputy Dudley-Owen mentioned there about the plans, you look at the plans, the plans are then fleshed out, all the different pieces of the information then get put in, and as we go through that journey, we are still on that journey. This is unfortunately a really bad glitch, which we could have done without, but that journey will continue and that due rigour of the project will continue all the way through till eventually we get to the full business case and then hopefully into construction.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** There are no more supplementary questions. Your next question then, Deputy St Pier.

**Deputy St Pier:** My fourth question, madam, is: at the time of the Funding & Investment Plan debate in October 2023 were any officers privy to any information to suggest that there might be significant cost pressures regarding phase two of the Hospital Modernisation Programme?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

1490 **Deputy Brouard:** Yes. Some members of the programme management team received updated estimates in February 2023, based on more detailed designs than had been used for the previous cost estimates that had informed the outline business case. It is an unacceptable fact that these updated estimates were not shared wider than a small number of staff.

1495 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier, supplementary question?

**Deputy St Pier:** Yes, I have one supplementary, madam, which arises out of the response about not being informed.

1500 I am advised that the implementation of the Electronic Patient Record Project will be both significantly above the £15 million budget and significantly behind schedule, with more than 50 staff associated with the project, which was due to have gone live last October and is now subject to a further re-plan. Have the Committee been advised of this by officers?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

1505 **Deputy Brouard:** Thank you for the question.

I do not think this question relates to this particular project, but I am happy to provide the information. We have a Deputy here who is on that project board and we are happy to provide information to the States as to where the electronic records system is going through.

Thank you.

1510

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Falla.

**Deputy Falla:** Thank you, madam.

1515 The President earlier said that any staff involved and he just referred to officers who were aware in February, were no longer working for the States of Guernsey. Does that mean that there will be further delays while those people are replaced?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

1520 **Deputy Brouard:** There is a new structure in place but there will be a delay as we go through looking at how we are going to bring the project back into the cost envelope and have the best facilities we can at a really acceptable price to the Island. There have been delays. It has been delays, unfortunately, all the way through from when we went to the Funding & Investment Plan. We would have liked to have gone a bit faster then. But yes, there are some delays now, built in and I do not think the project will be finished as soon as if you started it two years earlier.

1525

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Dudley-Owen.

1530 **Deputy Dudley-Owen:** The President has mentioned now on numerous occasions this morning that officers failed to inform the Committee. What is the President's view of his and each Committee member and them as the Committee, their responsibility to have input, proper governance protocols and oversight onto this particular project?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

1535

**Deputy Brouard:** I am not understanding exactly the question. Could Deputy Dudley-Owen repeat it again, please?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Dudley-Owen.

1540

**Deputy Dudley-Owen:** I will put it another way, thank you, madam.

Does the President think that his Committee has any culpability at all for the failure of reporting within the Committee related to the increase in cost and also the messaging given to the States based on the correct information that was given to the States?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** Absolutely. Yes.

The Committee stands as the Committee. Whatever happens on our watch, happens on our watch. The fact that we may not know everything that does happen or that we cannot influence it, or we get given information that is incorrect, it is the Committee's responsibility. We have to take that. That goes without saying.

The issue was at the programme management board level. The next tier above the governance level were not aware either of this particular issue. So we were interrogating our closest staff who we normally see. There was no issue. It was just when further work was done that this then came to light. But no, all Committees take whatever happens on their watch, whether they personally got involved or whether it was just something that happens.

We cannot as a Committee know exactly what happens with every single operation at the Hospital. But we do take responsibility for that. That is part of our role as politicians.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier.

**Deputy St Pier:** Thank you.

My second supplementary, madam, is what actions is the Committee taking to actively ensure that the composition of the project team and the project board is fit for purpose? Or is it leaving that as a matter for the Civil Service to determine?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** Thank you for that question. Very good question. And that is ongoing – very, much an ongoing work stream for the Committee.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Could you pose your fifth question, please, Deputy St Pier?

**Deputy St Pier:** Thank you.

At the time of the Government Work Plan debate in January 2024, when the States of Deliberation were considering alternative funding models for the Transforming Education Programme, was the President or any Member of the Committee privy to any information to suggest that there might be significant cost pressures regarding phase two of our Hospital Modernisation Programme?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** Thank you.

While the Committee had received an initial briefing on 19th December 2023, it understood that further work was going to be completed to better understand the accuracy of the potential revised cost estimates. A meeting took place in mid-January with specialist advisers as part of our due diligence process, while it notes the date of the Government Work Plan debate on 24th January 2024 for confirmation of the estimated cost pressures was advised to the Committee on 6th February 2024.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Is this a supplementary?

**Deputy St Pier:** It is a supplementary, madam, I am sorry, yes to clarify.

1595 Does the President not agree that an indication that an issue might exist was the very least information that this Assembly was entitled to have at that time of its meeting in January 2024?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

1600 **Deputy Brouard:** Bearing in mind that we had a very late submission from Education with regard to the project for the schools, we were not confident at that moment in time of the information that we had received. And we have that difficult political thing: do we mention it now or later or when we have more information? It was just going to set some hares running until we were able, with the confidence that we knew that we had really did have a problem. And that is why we waited until we had that information confirmed.

1605

**The Deputy Bailiff:** A second supplementary, Deputy St Pier.

1610 **Deputy St Pier:** Yes, madam. With the benefit of hindsight does the President agree that it would have been better to have informed the States at that time, during that debate, that there might have been an issue that the Assembly would have an interest in?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

1615 **Deputy Brouard:** The benefit of hindsight is a wonderful gift and I wish I had it sometimes. It is a political call. We were waiting to make sure that the figures that we were given ... because having once been bitten, we were wanting to make absolutely sure that there was going to be an issue.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Sixth question, please, Deputy St Pier.

1620 **Deputy St Pier:** When did the Committee advise the Policy & Resources Committee that it had identified that there might be significant cost pressures regarding phase two of the Hospital Modernisation Programme?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

1625

1630 **Deputy Brouard:** The Committee met with Policy & Resources Committee formally on 27th February 2024, and papers for this meeting, which included an update on phase two, were circulated on 23rd February 2024. Officer discussions had taken place and were ongoing at the most senior level in the States, and further information was being sought to better understand the extent of the potential issue. This was taking place in late autumn, prior to the Committee being informed in December 2023.

1635 **The Deputy Bailiff:** If there are no further supplementary or any supplementary questions I will ask Deputy St Pier to pose a seventh question.

**Deputy St Pier:** How frequently is the Committee updated on progress of our Hospital Modernisation Programme?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

1640

**Deputy Brouard:** The Committee discusses the progress of the Hospital Modernisation Programme on a regular basis, and there was significant preparation for the debate on the Funding & Investment Plan throughout 2023.

1645 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Cameron.  
Sorry Deputy St Pier, did you have a follow up?

**Deputy St Pier:** Yes, I did, actually –

1650 **The Deputy Bailiff:** I will allow a supplementary.

**Deputy St Pier:** Thank you, madam, that is appreciated.  
Does the President regret not having had a political Member on the project board for the programme?

1655 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** The project board itself did not know. So I think that is something to learn for going forward. We are very happy to put a person on that project board. There is a further board above that where we do have a political representative, but the project board itself was not advised that the project management board had not passed the information across.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Queripel, first supplementary question.

1665 **Deputy Queripel:** Thank you, madam.  
The President said in response to the question his Committee discussed the progress of the Hospital modernisation on a regular basis. Well, that response is somewhat vague. Can he be a bit more specific, please, and tell us how often those discussions actually take place?

1670 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** The building of the new extension to the Hospital has been one of the most fundamental pieces of work we have been undertaking for this term in office. We have had countless discussions and meetings, the preparation in May, countless meetings with States' Members. It has been very much our focus. And of course, it was even more in focus when Policy & Resources decided that it was not a project that they would immediately support.

1675 So we then had to work very hard to make sure that we would be able to at least offer the States that particular thing, which we did and eventually it turned up in the Funding & Investment Plan in September, I believe. So a lot of work was done, especially through May, June, July and then right through till September we have been working on that and the Committee has very much been a part in those discussions with regard to the modernisation.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** A second supplementary question, Deputy St Pier.

1685 **Deputy St Pier:** Yes, madam.  
Has a political Member been placed on the project management board since this issue came to light?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

1690 **Deputy Brouard:** No, that is the work we are now undertaking to review the governance. The issue happened quite far down on the chain. So the people we were speaking to were giving us the reassurance. Unfortunately, they were also let down.

1695 **The Deputy Bailiff:** If there are no further supplementary questions, I will ask you to pose your eighth question, please, Deputy St Pier.

**Deputy St Pier:** The Committee have told Members that they have directed their teams to examine all options to remain within the agreed cost envelope. Do these options include changes to the scope or timing of delivery of phase two?

1700

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** At this stage, the Committee is not intending for there to be any re-scoping of phase two, given that our position remains that all elements are essential to give the Island the best possible chance of meeting the future health and care needs of the community, which are increasing year on year.

1705

We have directed that all other options are examined to try and return the estimated costs to within the budget agreed by the Assembly. As stated, this work will take several months to complete, so to try and predict its outcome would be speculative and premature. Our team needs to be given time and space to carry out the necessary work, which will include a value engineering exercise, an examination of all non-construction estimated costs.

1710

If after this work has been completed it is found it is not possible to contain the estimated costs at £120 million agreed by the Assembly, we will return the matter to the States so Members can debate the best way forward.

1715

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Haskins, supplementary question.

**Deputy Haskins:** Thank you, madam.

The President stated that it will take multiple months to try and value engineer or seek interventions without reducing the scope of the project and given the likelihood that it will come back to the States, I would ask the President, who mentioned that time frames have been impacted, what is the new estimate insofar that he can give, given the start date was meant to be 2024, and if he cannot tell Members, will the President commit to a date that he will at least update the Assembly on progress?

1725

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

**Deputy Brouard:** Yes, thank you for that question Deputy Haskins. Happy to update Members either before or at the next time that I am required to give us a Statement to the States or if something else happens in between.

1730

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Dyke.

**Deputy Dyke:** Thank you, madam.

1735

Could I ask Deputy Brouard, given the current financing issues that have arisen is there scope, or has he considered whether there is scope, for splitting this project into two, doing one stage first and a second stage later, as I think had initially been planned?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard.

1740

**Deputy Brouard:** I am sure that that may well be one of the considerations we will come up to, because phases two and three were joined together for economic reasons as it made sense to bring the two together.

You always run the risk, that costs will also increase more by spreading it out over a longer term. There may be some options to shorten the term of the build, which may then reduce costs. These are all things that we are trying to give the space for our staff to work on, but he makes a very good point.

1745

**The Deputy Bailiff:** There are no further supplementary questions in relation to the questions posed by Deputy St Pier.

## **COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **Visitor economy – Decline in visitor numbers; measures to improve**

**The Deputy Bailiff:** I will turn to Deputy de Lisle to pose his question to the President of Economic Development.

**Deputy de Lisle:** Thank you, madam.

A question on the visitor economy. The latest Travel and Visitor Annual Report for 2023 shows that visitor numbers have slumped compared with 2019. Given the increasing concern of the hospitality industry, what measures are being put in place by Economic Development to grow the visitor numbers and improve the visitor economy?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** Thank you, Deputy de Lisle, for your question.

The Guernsey Travel and Visitor Annual Report for 2023 shows that, excluding visitors from cruise ships and visiting yachts and long stay visitors, there were 215,000 visitors to Guernsey in 2023, compared to 279,000 before the COVID-19 pandemic – an overall reduction of 23% over a four-year period.

However, it is important to note that many jurisdictions have not yet fully recovered to their pre-pandemic levels of visitors. Jersey has seen an overall reduction of 32% in its visitor numbers in 2023 compared to 2019, on the same basis compared to Guernsey's 23% reduction over the same period.

The Committee has established an industry-led Tourism Management Board, which will shortly be publishing its Tourism Strategy and which in 2023 allocated the Committee's events budget and a new Tourism Product Development Fund. The Committee has budgeted to invest £1.6 million in marketing Guernsey as a visitor destination in 2024 and has been planning to invest additional funds to support the development of new air routes, including the new direct links to Paris. This is a significant investment. The Committee is therefore confident that it is taking steps to invest in and support the visitor economy and the Committee hopes to see a continued recovery in visitor numbers in 2024.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy de Lisle.

**Deputy de Lisle:** I have two supplementaries, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott do you wish to be relevé?

**Deputy Trott:** Yes, thank you madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Yes, so Deputy de Lisle, you may now pose your first supplementary.

**Deputy de Lisle:** Thank you, madam.

The budget investment in tourism does not appear to be working. We have got empty streets in Town, devoid of visitors. The President of Economic Development said he was going to change

1795 all that with a new direction for tourism. Can I ask the President to please provide an update on Visit Guernsey – it does not appear to be as active as it was – and what has changed?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

1800 **Deputy Inder:** With the greatest respect, we cannot do policy by anecdote. I have explained to Deputy de Lisle that we are on a recovery path, but I would like to respond to Deputy de Lisle. When I took this position ... in fact, all of us came into this Assembly in the middle of COVID. At the time I took this position, I was absolutely satisfied that we would have got to the 2019 figures in a post recovery period.

1805 But that was before the tanks rolled into Ukraine. Not only did they roll into Ukraine, straight after that, we had an energy crisis. Inflation went through the roof. Oil prices shot through the roof. Mortgage interest rates shot through the roof. Britain has basically bubbled along, almost and in fact going into a technical recession. This is about events. When I started this position, I was absolutely confident had all those things not happened, we would be back to the 2019 position. But as soon as the Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine, that changed everything.

1810

**The Deputy Bailiff:** The second supplementary question.

**Deputy de Lisle:** Thank you, madam.

1815 On budget investment, the President, Deputy Inder, in his answer, mentions plans to invest in the development of new air routes. But what is Economic Development doing to bring down the cost of air travel to the Island, which is a major impediment to increasing tourist numbers? *(Interjection by Deputy Gollop)*

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

1820

**Deputy Inder:** Thank you for the heckle from Deputy Gollop. I thought that was my job.

1825 As Deputy de Lisle knows, Economic Development's job is not to bring down the price of air fares to the Island. He must know that; he has been in the States some, I do not know, 23 ... anyway too long! He has been in the States an incredibly long time. He must know that it is not the job of Economic Development – in fact, he sat on the Committee for four years – bringing the price of the fares down.

1830 But in all seriousness, over the last week I informed Members that I had written to Aurigny and we have subsequently had a response from Aurigny. I have not had time to digest that in any way. But separately, as I have explained over email, I do think it is down to Economic Development to effectively conduct some kind of independent review of fare structures, which are not necessarily just about Aurigny, it is the Jersey-Guernsey link which is important as well.

1835 So I think he has sort of got a point. But I think we are in a position in Economic Development, we must act in an independent way, not take all the information of people who walk through the door and possibly, I am afraid, spend some money assessing the fare structures in the Island, comparing them with other jurisdictions, and seeing if there is an impact on the current fare structures in terms of people being able to leave the Island and get to the Island and move to the Island.

I hope that answers his question in some way.

1840 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Supplementary question from Deputy Queripel.

1845 **Deputy Queripel:** Madam, we heard this morning that Deputy Brouard said Deputies should not get involved in operational matters, but can Deputy Inder clarify whether or not this is politicians getting involved in operational matters, please?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** Aurigny is operationally independent, even though it is effectively our national carrier, and there is a lot of focus on what has been, in my view, an incredibly successful management of that company. We have recapitalised it to the tune of around £72 million over the last three or four years – I think Deputy Queripel said it was something closer to £100 million, but he is not far off. But this is not just about Aurigny. I cannot walk into, and neither can STSB, who acts in the shareholder capacity and basically starts saying, moving routes around and fare structures, that that is entirely not our job.

But if he is asking the question I think he is asking, I think the Committee has to act in some sort of independence and test the theory whether the current fare structures, not just for Aurigny, including inter-Island as well, are having an impact on people's ability to travel, because of course, it is not just about tourists coming in the Island. It is the ability for people to get to be able to get off the Island and into inter-Island capacity as well.

It is fairly well known that sportsmen and women are struggling inter-Island nowadays because of the cost of the fares on Blue Islands. But rather than doing it by anecdote and I do not mean this unkindly, I think it is really up to us to actually test that properly and find out if there is price sensitivity and whether it has impacted directly on members of the public's ability to travel.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** I thank Deputy Inder for his answers, encouraged by the support they give to the Aurigny link to Paris, the work on reviewing inter-Island links to and costs. But my question is: given the so-called black swan of difficulties with Aurigny recently, after a brilliant turnaround prior, will Economic Development continue to work to ensure that Easter and beyond, operational or not ... that Guernsey's visitor economy has maximum penetration and service from the air carriers and there are not problems that can be alleviated.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** Again, I would be the last person to say this has got nothing to do with me, but I am going to be the first person to say this has got nothing to do with me. The operational responsibility actually sits under STSB. But to ask this question directly, we all walk and breathe the same air, we have all got relationships with people.

I do not think STSB knew that there was going to be what has now been deemed as a black swan event. We did not know. I believe STSB has written to the board directly and separately. I have written to the board and shared the response with Members, of which I think we only received some time like five o'clock yesterday evening.

It is a long, detailed response, it touches on the black swan event, touches on the fare structure, and I am sure the CEO of Aurigny would be quite happy to field any more questions once Members have utterly digested what is an entirely thorough response to the concerns raised by the GHA and those raised by us in regard to route capacity.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Blin.

**Deputy Blin:** Thank you, madam.

My question follows on from Deputy de Lisle's. When asking the President of Economic Development about the prices changing or Aurigny, etc. in the States, it is nothing to do with Economic Development. In the Air Policy Framework of 2021, it names the Committees; it names ED, STSB and P&R to actually look at the strategic, the pricing, all those aspects. That was meant to be done on an annual basis. So it is really to support that actually it is, or I believe it is, an element and could Deputy Inder confirm that?

1900 And also just slightly moving on to the point about the TMB he refers again saying, well, that is going to come up and it is going to bring it. My concern is the timing. We are always talking about returning to 2019. But again, like I referred to before, like the 80th anniversary or travel to Herm to all these areas of economic interest, is he able to assure us that there is –?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Blin, it is supposed to be a minute and one question.

1905 **Deputy Blin:** Sorry.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

1910 **Deputy Inder:** I will try and answer the question that was not asked in the previous set of questions, which is reference to the Air Policy Framework and Deputy Blin is quite right, the Aurigny Group Financial Sustainability was published. I believe it was 3rd September 2021. The core objectives in there were: provide stability on current essential routes; be affordable to the community, which I think I have made reference to that; and testing the fare structure I think comes from Deputy de Lisle. So that is fair comment.

1915 Importantly, reduce Aurigny's costs and losses in order to enable it to sustainably offer market and competitive fares, which they have entirely done but I notice there were no questions on that. The performance of the airline to actually ensure that it is not sending bills back to the Island.

1920 Unless Deputy Vermeulen disagrees with that and he is welcome to ask a question, I think that is a very good story: £71 million or thereabouts – and I will share this with Members later – of recapitalisation over the last five or six years. There is a good news story there.

1925 But it also talks about connectivity, encouraging development of UK regional, Europe partnership with Aurigny, which you have done in Paris. Security of connections to London Gatwick. We did that. We defeated the airport runway, inasmuch as the amendments to the airport runway because that would have driven a coach and horses through our sustainability. So we cannot have it both ways.

1930 And investment in airport infrastructure with private investment encouraged, Aurigny fleet review and configuration. And I believe that is coming under the Airport Master Plan at some point in the future. But where I think Deputy Blin has actually got me is we have not, he is entirely correct, I do not think ourselves, STSB and Policy & Resources, I think it is ... have actually sat in the room in the two intervening years when this was published. So he is right there and all I can do is apologise for that. And I will ensure as part of that review, STSB, Policy & Resources and ourselves are in that room.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you.

1935 Second supplementary question from Deputy Gollop.

1940 **Deputy Gollop:** Yes. In researching this, I came across an old policy letter from June 2018, Proposition 7, which directed the Committee for Economic Development to review the Air Transport Licensing policy statement within five years and report back by the end of 2023. That could be what Deputy Inder is referring to.

But my question is, can that come back with also the Tourism Strategy so that all of us Members can have a general debate and review of tourism and the visitor economy as a nice package for the summer or early autumn?

1945 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** I am not here to give Deputy Gollop the ability to have a chat in the States.

I will not bring the Tourism Marketing Strategy to the states. That ship has sailed. We have given it to the TMB. They will be publishing it and is worked on with the industry. But he is right. And one

1950 of the difficulties, I have to say, is that we have got so many bits and pieces of work, something from 2018, something from 2021. I generally think a future Government should, when they bring these changes to policies and frameworks, they need to rescind the whole lot, put them all into one spot so we do not have to spend time missing pieces of documents across websites.

1955 We are all human, not only politicians, and our staff as well. People miss things, it happens. But I think out of all of this, almost by accident, we have delivered on the direction. We have a new European hub, we have access to the UK. That was all embedded there. And if anything, we might even be overserved in the UK, we have got so many destinations. The bit that is missing, as I have said before, I generally think Economic Development needs to do an independent review of fares which do not just include Aurigny but include Guernsey and Jersey as well.

1960 **The Deputy Bailiff:** If there are no further supplementary questions, then we will move on to the next questions, which are those posed by Deputy Gollop to the President of SACC.

## STATES' ASSEMBLY & CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

### States' Meetings and boards – Publication of attendance records

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

1965 **Deputy Gollop:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Bailiff.

My first question, and I will have a couple of supplementaries on the first one is, given the changed membership of the SACC States' Assembly Committee and the call for enhanced transparency and accountability, will the Committee consider republishing in paper or online formats States' Meeting and board attendance records last updated on the gov.gg website 2016?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Meerveld.

**Deputy Meerveld:** Thank you, madam.

1975 No, the States agreed by way of Resolution on 31st March 2022, to cease the publication of the records of Members' attendance at the Meetings of the States of Deliberation, the Policy Council, Departments and Committees, and some Committees thereof. The Committee has no intention to revisit this for the remainder of this term.

1980 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Your supplementary question, Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** The publication was useful also in identifying Members who were perhaps late or missed part of the meetings, which might indicate they missed, for example, the minutes or some aspect. Wouldn't it be useful for the public to have a record of that and the media, rather than having to trawl through anecdote or Freedom of Information or other techniques?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Meerveld.

1990 **Deputy Meerveld:** Well, Deputy Gollop was on the Committee when we debated this (*Laughter*) and should remember that we went through all of these issues in detail and decided that we would recommend to the States that we not continue publishing this information, that it was not merited and the time taken in compiling the information, etc., was detracting from other States' work.

Thank you, madam.

1995       **The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you. Have you got another supplementary question?

**Deputy Gollop:** Yes, one situation I have been aware of recently is, for example, the Members' Pay Review Panel have questioned States' Members as to their commitment in time to Committee meetings, board meetings and such like; and wouldn't SACC agree that it is regrettable that in terms of hard evidence, that record no longer readily exists in an easy form? Although I believe Committee secretaries still take notes for obvious reasons of who attends and who does not.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Meerveld.

2005       **Deputy Meerveld:** As Deputy Gollop should remember, as he was on the Committee at the time this was debated by the Committee, the information, as he says, is available. The secretary, whoever is making minutes of the meeting, will make note of everybody who attends. It can be found. But the States has decided after considering it that we are not going to collect and publish this information in aggregate form. That decision has been made, and the reformed Committee with the new Members has looked at this and decided we will not revisit this issue, this term.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Haskins.

**Deputy Haskins:** Thank you, madam.  
2015       The President stated that he has no intention to bring back attendance records at this time. Yet in February 2023, he made an assurance on *Hansard* to Deputy Dudley-Owen and Members here that he will take this issue back to his Committee. Has he taken it back to the Committee and what was the outcome?

2020       **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Meerveld.

**Deputy Meerveld:** I thank Deputy Haskins for the question. It has been taken back to the Committee. The Committee has discussed it and we are not going to revisit it this term. There are other more important things the SACC Committee has to focus on for the rest of this term.

2025       Re-debating something that was already decided by the States less than two years ago is not high on our priority list.

              Thank you, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

2030       **Deputy Inder:** Just briefly, sir, I think I voted for the same set of Propositions at the time. Would the President not agree with me that if there was a specific interest in this, this can either be done via Rule 14 questions – each individual Committee could be asked and they would have to be responded to – or potentially even Freedom of Information?

2035       **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Meerveld.

**Deputy Meerveld:** I certainly would welcome any measure that goes out there to solicit the opinions of Members if they are strongly minded to revisit this issue. But I would suggest they go back and listen to the *Hansard* ... sorry can Deputy Inder repeat the question?

2040       **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

2045       **Deputy Inder:** Sorry. It is me mumbling again. It seems to be the effect I have got on Deputy Meerveld.

I think the question I asked more clearly, potentially, is would he agree with me that any Member who has a specific interest in this matter could ask via Rule 14 questions, the attendance records of each of the Committees, or specifically under Freedom of Information, if members of the public were so minded?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Meerveld.

**Deputy Meerveld:** Yes, I would agree with Deputy Inder. As I said to Deputy Gollop in his previous supplementary, the information is recorded and is accessible. But the States have decided previously that they would not collate and publish that information. And if Members are very strongly minded about it, then I suggest they bring a requête for the States to re-debate it.

Thank you, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop, would you kindly pose your second question to Deputy Meerveld.

**Deputy Gollop:** Thank you, Madam President.

Could such an updated and improved attendance record be updated automatically by Members electronically and incorporate legislation, panel members, presentations, conferences to more appropriately reflect individual Members' workloads subject to resources?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Meerveld.

**Deputy Meerveld:** No.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Any supplementary questions?

Deputy Falla.

**Deputy Falla:** Would the President of SACC agree with me that presenteeism does not necessarily indicate contribution?

**Several Members:** Hear, hear.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Meerveld.

**Deputy Meerveld:** I would absolutely agree with that statement and I think that is one of the strong considerations of the Committee when we debated it. What constitutes a good Deputy? Is it a checklist exercise of attending meetings, or is it the efforts they put in, the contribution they make? And definitely when the Committee debated this, it was felt that you may create a false emphasis on attendance at meetings rather than contributing in other ways to the benefit of our society.

Thank you, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** I think my supplementary was, my proposition is a new one really that in future possibly attendance records could be self-regulated as well as SACC-regulated and include being present or participating in events other than board meetings, a much wider spectrum of what Members do rather than just being present at Committee meetings. So would the Committee look at that, whilst at the same time not needing additional resources?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Meerveld.

**Deputy Meerveld:** I think Deputy Gollop has mentioned the key word 'resources'. As the Committee is not revisiting the idea of doing attendance records and compiling them and publishing them, there is no point in the Committee then reviewing whether or not every Deputy should carry a swipe card that they have to swipe every time they go in and out of a meeting. So the answer is still no.

Thank you, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** I thank the President for answering Deputy Gollop's question. But is there a sort of slightly worrying danger that those type of questions are entirely subjective, Inasmuch as any President of SACC or any Committee like SACC can prove absolutely nothing by the attendance of a person at any Committee meeting, or indeed work groups and other diary commitments?

Would he just like to confirm that it is not the job of the Assembly Committee to prove the value of Deputies' work via a calendar of what they did or did not attend?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Meerveld.

**Deputy Meerveld:** I absolutely concur with that. It is not the SACC Committee's responsibility to police Members' attendance at meetings or other events and I think it goes back – Deputy Inder makes the point very well, as Deputy Falla did – that perceived value by the populace, or the value that the populace received, is not necessarily derived from the number of meetings a Deputy attends, and each Deputy contributes to our Assembly in different ways, such as Deputy Queripel, who does a lot of constituency work. How would you record that versus attendance at a Committee meeting or a briefing of a Committee?

So this is, I think, why it is a much more complex issue when you go into the details. And the SACC Committee has decided, having reviewed this once, having had the Assembly debate it once, that we will not be revisiting this term. And if we are not revisiting the decision there is no point in doing any research into electronic records.

Thank you, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Roffey.

**Deputy Roffey:** While I completely agree with the President of SACC that the idea in question two from Deputy Gollop is not worth looking into, does he agree with me that if he did introduce this, it would at least solve one of the mysteries of the universe, which is how Deputy Gollop apparently appears to be present at three different public presentations at the same time, particularly when there are sandwiches involved? (*Laughter*)

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Meerveld.

**Deputy Meerveld:** I must admit that is a mystery. There was a meeting at my house briefly last night and I did not realise Deputy Gollop was invited, but he miraculously appeared just as the food was opened!

Thank you, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Dudley-Owen.

**Deputy Dudley-Owen:** Thank you.

Whilst it can become rather light-hearted, this subject, and possibly seem like a little bit of navel gazing, ultimately this is about accountability and how members of the public hold their elected Deputies to account for the work that they have been asked to do on their behalf. Would the

2150 President therefore accept that publication of attendance records is merely one tool in the box for a member of the public to be able to measure whether or not their Deputy has actually done the work that they expected them to do?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Meerveld.

2155 **Deputy Meerveld:** Absolutely. At the end of the day, the public have different standards by which they measure Deputies, and each individual has different things that they expect of their elected Members, I suspect, depending on their individual perspective. The danger is if this Assembly decides to publish those numbers, how do we then publish the counterbalancing information that would relate to other aspects?

2160 As I say, when I use the example of Deputy Queripel and his constituency work, how do you record that and make sure that the public have the opportunity to view the value of that as well? And the decision was made by SACC not to continue the publication, and that decision was confirmed by this Assembly in March 2022.

2165 Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop, your second supplementary question.

2170 **Deputy Gollop:** In agreeing with Deputy Dudley-Owen's question that publishing the roles is one form of accountability, wouldn't the President of SACC also agree that one useful aspect of the old style publication – flawed though it was in not covering all aspects of work, even subcommittees and project boards – that it did provide an accurate analysis of workload balance because the old system revealed significant differences in official workload between Member X and Member Y? Would Deputy Meerveld agree, and would he agree that that is of some value in terms of information to the wider public?

2175

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Meerveld.

2180 **Deputy Meerveld:** In response to that, I reiterate my point of how do you ensure that the information provided is an accurate representation of the work balance for each Deputy? How do you measure Deputy Queripel's contribution in constituency work, or the hundreds of hours that I put into developing the scoping document for the wind farm? This is work that is definitely done by Deputies every day that is not recorded.

2185 I think that just simply recording attendance at meetings and presentations turns it into a checkbox exercise, rather than really measuring the value of Deputies. I think we will all be up to be measured in just over a year's time, and the public will use their own judgement, but I think it sets a dangerous precedent when the States creates an emphasis on meeting attendance as being a yardstick by which you measure Deputies. I personally do not think that is appropriate. The SACC Committee has agreed, and this Assembly made that decision in March 2022.

2190

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Queripel.

**Deputy Queripel:** Madam, would the President agree with me that seeing as a Deputy can be registered as attending, for example, a States' debate and then immediately leave for the rest of the day, it makes a complete mockery of keeping attendance records, anyway?

2195

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Meerveld.

2200 **Deputy Meerveld:** I do agree with Deputy Queripel, but again, you hit this difficulty. Do we have to have a swipe card? We swipe every time we go in and out of the room. And also when Deputies are in the room, how would you measure the quality of the contribution made in that room?

And that is again another danger that if you are turning it into a tick box exercise based on attendance, you are not measuring the value. And it is up to the public ultimately to decide that. But I personally think that publishing that information makes this Assembly look like we value attendance at meetings over the contribution made or work done outside of the Assembly.

Thank you, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Dudley-Owen, your second supplementary question.

**Deputy Dudley-Owen:** Thank you.

This is a question about qualitative and quantitative data that the electorate use to make their judgement on the contribution of Deputies. And I wonder whether the President of SACC has looked at the Jersey website, the States' Assembly gov.je and looked at the individual pages for the Members there because they allow input of questions, votes, declarations of interest, and a biography where a lot of this information can be collated and put in one easy-read place.

Obviously the decision is for the electorate, it is helpful for them, but obviously it is up to a Deputy to be able to put forward their case as to whether they have made a contribution. But I would like to get assurance that the President might look at the Jersey website as a steer for next time about how we can enhance our biographies and our information on our Deputies here.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Meerveld.

**Deputy Meerveld:** I am not sure how that arises out of the previous answers, but I am very happy to take a look at the Jersey website, and we will be looking at ways that we can add value. In fact there will be a launching of a website shortly regarding preparation for the next election that SACC has been working on.

So I am always happy to take input like that. But as I say, on the specific issue of recording meetings, it has been debated. It has been decided both at the SACC Committee and this Assembly and, as I say, we will not be revisiting it.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Le Tissier, your first supplementary question.

**Deputy Le Tissier:** Thank you, madam.

Would the President agree with me that, with reference to the question of attendance at conferences, it would be appropriate and increased transparency if any Deputy attending conferences being paid for by the States to make a formal report of their attendance and that could be published?

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Meerveld, we are going quite beyond your answer. It is up to you to decide whether or not you want to answer this question or not.

**Deputy Meerveld:** Madam, thank you for that.

We are going down a rabbit hole here because we are now going into a completely different issue. And again, it raises that point about do we then discourage Deputies from going to conferences because the public might perceive it as a junket? Or at the end of the day, Deputies generally do a report to Members when they attend conferences, they do an email or at least back to specific Committees. I have had reports back from a recent visit to Westminster. So I think the value is added there. But again it is a double-edged sword that I do not think we want to be visiting, and it is probably not related to these specific questions.

Thank you, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Queripel, your second supplementary question.

**Deputy Queripel:** Thank you, madam.

Deputy Meerveld pointed out in a previous response attending meetings is just part of a Deputy's role, and we have no way of knowing the other work Deputies undertake outside of meetings. So would he give me his opinion, please, of Deputies filling out timesheets?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Again, Deputy Meerveld, this is going beyond your answer, but I will allow you to answer it if you wish to or if you decline, it is up to you.

**Deputy Meerveld:** Yes. Time sheets. Something my father used to refer to as crime sheets.

Again, I think we are going back to the swipe card. We are going back to attendance as a measure of performance. The expectations of the public of us as Deputies needs to be based on what we deliver, the value we deliver. And I do not think it is necessarily presenting the right information if we are just simply presenting information on attendance or workload. It is not necessarily an indication of effectiveness.

Thank you, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you. And if there are no further supplementary questions, that ends Question Time.

## Billet d'État III

### ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

#### STATES' TRADING SUPERVISORY BOARD

##### **1. Appointment of Non-Executive Directors – Guernsey Electricity Limited – Mr Paterson-Jones and Mr Bellinger appointed**

*Article 1.*

*The States are asked to decide:-*

*Whether, after consideration of the policy letter entitled 'Appointment of Non-Executive Directors - Guernsey Electricity Limited' dated 1 February 2024, they are of the opinion:-*

*1. To approve the appointment of Mr Noel Gregor Paterson-Jones and Mr Justin Bellinger as non-executive directors of Guernsey Electricity Limited with effect from the 2024 Guernsey Electricity Annual General Meeting.*

**The States Greffier:** Article 7 the States' Trading Supervisory Board – appointment of non-executive directors of Guernsey Electricity Limited.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Roffey.

**Deputy Roffey:** I have nothing to add to this self-explanatory policy letter.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Does anybody wish to speak in general debate?

No, I think we just have one Member who still needs to sign in. And I will now ask you, Greffier, to open the voting on this appointment.

2285

*There was a recorded vote.*

*Carried – Pour 33, Contre 2, Ne vote pas 2, Did not vote 3, Absent 0*

<b>POUR</b>	<b>CONTRE</b>	<b>NE VOTE PAS</b>	<b>DID NOT VOTE</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Aldwell, Sue	Helyar, Mark	Dudley-Owen, Andrea	Brouard, Al	None
Blin, Chris	Mahoney, David	Inder, Neil	Leadbeater, Marc	
Burford, Yvonne			Matthews, Aidan	
Bury, Tina				
Cameron, Andy				
De Lisle, David				
De Sausmarez, Lindsay				
Dyke, John				
Fairclough, Simon				
Falla, Steve				
Ferbrache, Peter				
Gabriel, Adrian				
Gollop, John				
Haskins, Sam				
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha				
Le Tissier, Chris				
Le Tocq, Jonathan				
McKenna, Liam				
Meerveld, Carl				
Moakes, Nick				
Murray, Bob				
Oliver, Victoria				
Parkinson, Charles				
Prow, Robert				
Queripel, Lester				
Roberts, Steve				
Roffey, Peter				
Snowdon, Alexander				
Soulsby, Heidi				
St Pier, Gavin				
Taylor, Andrew				
Trott, Lyndon				
Vermeulen, Simon				

**The Deputy Bailiff:** In relation to the appointment of the non-executive directors of Guernsey Electricity Limited, there voted Pour, 33; Contre, 2; there were 2 abstentions and 3 Members were not in the Chamber at the time of voting.

2290

I declare the Proposition has passed.

**MOTION TO DEBATE APPENDIX REPORT**

**COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Office of the Public Trustee Annual Report and Audited Accounts 2022 –  
Motion to debate –  
Proposition carried**

*Motion to debate:*

*To resolve, pursuant to Rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation, to debate the Appendix Report to Billet d'État No. 2024 entitled 'Committee for Economic Development – Office of the Public Trustee Annual Report and Audited Accounts 2022.*

2295 **The States' Greffier:** Committee for Economic Development, the Office of the Public Trustee, Annual Report and Audited Accounts 2022 – motion to debate.

2300 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Yes, Deputy St Pier has put forward a motion to debate the Report. Just to remind Members this is in accordance with Rule 20(4). I will ask Deputy St Pier to propose the motion. Then, if his seconder seconds, he does not speak, and then it will be over to Deputy Inder, as President of Economic Development to reply. And then there will be a vote.  
Deputy St Pier.

**Deputy St Pier:** Thank you, madam.

2305 I shall be brief, given that I understand that the Committee for Economic Development do not oppose this motion, and I am grateful to the President of the Committee for his engagement and confirmation of that. I am also grateful to Deputy Gabriel for his support and seconding the motion.

2310 The case for debating the Appendix Report is simple. There are substantial public funds, approximately £5 million at the end of the accounting period, the subject of the Report, that have been granted and loaned to the Public Trustee. Quite simply, that alone justifies scrutiny of the accounts through a public debate. I will respond to any debate but encourage Members to support.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gabriel, do you formally second this motion?

2315 **Deputy Gabriel:** I do, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** As far as I am aware, there is no objection to this from the Committee.

2320 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you.  
In that case, Deputy Greffier, can we open the voting in relation to this motion?

*There was a recorded vote.*

2325

*Carried – Pour 35, Contre 1, Ne vote pas 1, Did not vote 3, Absent 0*

<b>POUR</b>	<b>CONTRE</b>	<b>NE VOTE PAS</b>	<b>DID NOT VOTE</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Aldwell, Sue	Helyar, Mark	Mahoney, David	Brouard, Al	None
Blin, Chris			Leadbeater, Marc	
Burford, Yvonne			Matthews, Aidan	
Bury, Tina				
Cameron, Andy				
De Lisle, David				
De Sausmarez, Lindsay				
Dudley-Owen, Andrea				
Dyke, John				
Fairclough, Simon				
Falla, Steve				
Ferbrache, Peter				
Gabriel, Adrian				
Gollop, John				
Haskins, Sam				
Inder, Neil				
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha				
Le Tissier, Chris				
Le Tocq, Jonathan				
McKenna, Liam				
Meerveld, Carl				
Moakes, Nick				
Murray, Bob				
Oliver, Victoria				
Parkinson, Charles				
Prow, Robert				
Queripel, Lester				
Roberts, Steve				
Roffey, Peter				
Snowdon, Alexander				
Soulsby, Heidi				
St Pier, Gavin				
Taylor, Andrew				
Trott, Lyndon				
Vermeulen, Simon				

**The Deputy Bailiff:** There voted in relation to the motion to debate, 35 Pour; 1 against; 1 abstention, and 3 Members were not in the Chamber at the time of voting. I therefore declare the outcome as passed, and we will debate that later on in either today or tomorrow's Meeting.

2330

#### LEGISLATION LAID BEFORE THE STATES

**The Taxation of Real Property (Guernsey and Alderney) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024;  
The Foundations (Registrar) (Civil Penalties) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 2023;  
The Companies (Registrar) (Fees and Penalties) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 2023;  
The Limited Liability Partnerships (Registrar) (Fees and Penalties)  
(Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 2023;  
The Foundations (Registrar) (Civil Penalties) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 2023;  
The Limited Partnerships (Registrar) (Civil Penalties) (Amendment)  
(No. 2) Regulations, 2023;  
The Secondary Pensions (Guernsey and Alderney) (Amendment) Regulations, 2024;  
The Land Planning and Development (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2024;  
The Salles Publiques (Fees for Renewal of Licences) (Amendment Regulations, 2024;  
The Public Highways (Temporary Road Closures) (Fees and Penalties)**

**(Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 2023;**  
**The Criminal Justice (Proceeds of Crime) (Bailiwick of Guernsey)**  
**(Amendment of Schedule 3) Regulations, 2024;**  
**The Administrative Forfeiture of Assets (Forfeiture Notices)**  
**(Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2024;**  
**The Forfeiture of Assets in Civil Proceedings (Commencement, Amendment and**  
**Miscellaneous Provisions) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2024;**  
**The Forfeiture of Assets in Civil Proceedings (Codes of Practice)**  
**(Bailiwick of Guernsey) Order, 2024;**  
**The Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Amendments – Preventative Offences) (Bailiwick of**  
**Guernsey) Ordinance, 2023 (Commencement) Regulations, 2024;**  
**The Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Amendments – Deferred Prosecution Agreements)**  
**(Bailiwick of Guernsey) Ordinance, 2023 (Commencement) Regulations, 2024;**  
**The Economic and Financial Crime Bureau and Financial Intelligence Unit**  
**(Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2022 (Amendment) Regulations, 2024;**  
**The Beneficial Ownership (Definition) (Amendment) Regulations, 2024;**  
**The Charities Etc. (Amendment) (Guernsey and Alderney) Regulations, 2024;**  
**The Terrorist Asset-Freezing (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2011**  
**(Amendment) Regulations, 2024;**  
**The Sanctions (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations, 2024;**  
**The Criminal Justice (Proceeds of Crime) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Professional**  
**Qualifications – Accountants and Non-Locally Qualified Legal**  
**Professionals) Regulations, 2024;**  
**The Criminal Justice (Proceeds of Crime) (Bailiwick of Guernsey)**  
**(Amendment of Schedule 3) (No. 2) Regulations, 2024**

**The States' Greffier:** The following legislation is laid before the States: The Taxation of Real Property (Guernsey and Alderney) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024; The Foundations (Registrar) (Civil Penalties) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 2023; The Companies (Registrar) (Fees and Penalties) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 2023; The Limited Liability Partnerships (Registrar) (Fees and Penalties) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 2023; The Foundations (Registrar) (Civil Penalties) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 2023; The Limited Partnerships (Registrar) (Civil Penalties) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 2023; The Secondary Pensions (Guernsey and Alderney) (Amendment) Regulations, 2024; The Land Planning and Development (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2024; The Salles Publiques (Fees for Renewal of Licences) (Amendment) Regulations, 2024; The Public Highways (Temporary Road Closures) (Fees and Penalties) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 2023; The Criminal Justice (Proceeds of Crime) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment of Schedule 3) Regulations, 2024; The Administrative Forfeiture of Assets (Forfeiture Notices) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2024; The Forfeiture of Assets in Civil Proceedings (Commencement, Amendment and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2024; The Forfeiture of Assets in Civil Proceedings (Codes of Practice) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Order, 2024; The Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Amendments – Preventative Offences) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Ordinance, 2023 (Commencement) Regulations, 2024; The Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Amendments – Deferred Prosecution Agreements) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Ordinance, 2023 (Commencement) Regulations, 2024; The Economic and Financial Crime Bureau and Financial Intelligence Unit (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2022 (Amendment) Regulations, 2024; The Beneficial Ownership (Definition) (Amendment) Regulations, 2024; The Charities Etc. (Amendment) (Guernsey and Alderney) Regulations, 2024; The Terrorist Asset-Freezing (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2011 (Amendment) Regulations, 2024; The Sanctions (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations, 2024; The Criminal Justice (Proceeds of Crime) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Professional Qualifications – Accountants and Non-Locally Qualified Legal Professionals) Regulations, 2024; The Criminal Justice (Proceeds of Crime) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment of Schedule 3) (No. 2) Regulations, 2024.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you very much, Greffier.

In relation to that legislation, I have no motions to annul. Deputy St Pier, I understand that you are no longer seeking to move the motion to annul at number 131 of 2023?

2360

**Deputy St Pier:** That is correct, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you very much.

In that case, we will move on to the next item in the agenda, please.

## LEGISLATION FOR APPROVAL

### COMMITTEE FOR HOME AFFAIRS

#### 2. The Terrorism and Crime (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance, 2024 – Approved

2365

*Article 2.*

*The States are asked to decide:-*

*Whether they are of the opinion to approve the draft Ordinance entitled "The Terrorism and Crime (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance, 2024" and to direct that the same shall have effect as an Ordinance of the States.*

**The States' Greffier:** Article 2, the Committee for Home Affairs, the Terrorism and Crime, (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance, 2024.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Prow.

2370

**Deputy Prow:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Bailiff.

This Ordinance follows the Assembly's consideration of a policy letter concerning amendments to criminal justice legislation agreed by the States at their Meeting of 24th May 2023. The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the Terrorism and Crime (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law 2002, so that the enforcement powers for terrorism investigations have the same degree of compulsion as equivalent enforcement powers under other existing legislation.

2375

In particular, the Criminal Justice (Proceeds of Crime) (Bailiwick Guernsey Law) 1999; the Drug Trafficking (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law 2000 and the Forfeiture of Money, etc. in Civil Proceedings (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law 2007. This is achieved by creating offences in respect of terrorist investigations that are similar to those applicable to the investigations under those enactments. I ask the Assembly to support this Ordinance.

2380

Thank you, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Does anybody wish to speak in general debate about this? No. In that case, we will move straight to voting, please, then States' Greffier. Would you mind opening the voting in relation to this Proposition?

2385

*There was a recorded vote.*

*Carried – Pour 40, Contre 0, Ne vote Pas 0, Did not vote 0, absent 0.*

<b>POUR</b>	<b>CONTRE</b>	<b>NE VOTE PAS</b>	<b>DID NOT VOTE</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Aldwell, Sue	None	None	None	None
Blin, Chris				
Brouard, Al				
Burford, Yvonne				
Bury, Tina				
Cameron, Andy				
De Lisle, David				
De Sausmarez, Lindsay				
Dudley-Owen, Andrea				
Dyke, John				
Fairclough, Simon				
Falla, Steve				
Ferbrache, Peter				
Gabriel, Adrian				
Gollop, John				
Haskins, Sam				
Helyar, Mark				
Inder, Neil				
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha				
Leadbeater, Marc				
Le Tissier, Chris				
Le Tocq, Jonathan				
Mahoney, David				
Matthews, Aidan				
McKenna, Liam				
Meerveld, Carl				
Moakes, Nick				
Murray, Bob				
Oliver, Victoria				
Parkinson, Charles				
Prow, Robert				
Queripel, Lester				
Roberts, Steve				
Roffey, Peter				
Snowdon, Alexander				
Soulsby, Heidi				
St Pier, Gavin				
Taylor, Andrew				
Trott, Lyndon				
Vermeulen, Simon				

2390      **The Deputy Bailiff:** There voted in relation to this Proposition: Pour, 40. Therefore, there is a unanimous support of this Proposition.  
          I declare that it has passed.

**COMMITTEE FOR HOME AFFAIRS**

**3. Preparation of a new Electoral Roll –  
Debate commenced**

*Article 3.*

*The States are asked to decide:-*

*Whether, after consideration of the Policy Letter entitled 'Preparation of a New Electoral Roll' dated 30th January 2024, they are of the opinion:-*

*1. To approve the compilation of a new Electoral Roll for the 2025 General Election of People's Deputies.*

*2. To direct the drafting of legislation to provide for:*

*(i) the creation of the new Electoral Roll in Proposition 1;*

*(ii) the validity of the current Electoral Roll to cease at 23:59 hours on 30th November 2024; and*

*(iii) the closure of the new Electoral Roll 7 weeks before the date of the 2025 General Election.*

2395 **The States' Greffier:** Article 3, Committee for Home Affairs – Preparation of a new Electoral Roll.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Prow.

**Deputy Prow:** Thank you, madam.

2400 Any Islander who wishes to vote in the 2025 General Election must be registered on the Electoral Roll. The main purpose of this policy letter is to propose the creation of a new Electoral Roll for the 2025 Election. This follows the same practice as the three preceding general elections, for which a new Electoral Roll has been created each time. In addition, the policy letter proposed creation of new rules to allow for the roll to be appropriately accessed by credit reference agencies.

2405 Regarding the creation of a new Electoral Roll, given that the current Electoral Roll was compiled ahead of the 2020 Election, the data will be over five years out of date by the time the next election comes around in 2025. The Committee considers that the data currently held on the Electoral Roll is insufficiently accurate to deliver the 2025 Election, and a new roll needs to be created.

2410 The Committee is recommending that the compilation of a new roll enters into force on 1st December 2024. This means that an Ordinance will be needed to terminate the validity of the current Electoral Roll at 23.59 on 30th November 2024.

2415 A key objective for the Committee is encouraging a high percentage of those eligible to vote to register their details on the roll. This is one of the measures that were identified for a successful election ahead of the last election. To that end, a comprehensive public campaign will take place with the aim of reaching as many Islanders as possible and encouraging them to register.

2420 Regarding the availability of the Electoral Roll for credit reference agencies, the Committee is extremely grateful to the Committee for Economic Development for bringing its attention to the increasing concern expressed by businesses and consumers about the lack of access to certain banking services. In light of these representations, the Committee is proposing that the Electoral Roll data is made available to credit reference agencies, which will assist in the verification services, which they provide to banks and credit card companies.

2425 There is a well-established precedent for this in the United Kingdom, and we will bring Guernsey into line with the UK. Of course, it is important to note that, unlike the UK, registration on the local Electoral Roll will continue to be voluntary. I can reassure the Assembly that the Committee will ensure that the necessary protections and controls are in place to maintain the security of people's personal information before making this change.

I urge this Assembly to support this policy letter. Thank you, madam.

2430 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you, Deputy Prow.  
Deputy Soulsby, would you like The States' Greffier to read your amendment?

Amendment

*After Proposition 2, to insert the following propositions:*

*"3. To agree that the Committee for Home Affairs and the Policy & Resources Committee shall investigate potential opportunities of using the data from the next electoral roll for the purposes of updating the Register of Contact Details and to report back by 30 September 2024."*

**Deputy Soulsby:** Yes, madam. It would be nice.

*The States' Greffier read out the amendment.*

2435 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Soulsby.

**Deputy Soulsby:** Thank you, madam.

2440 This is a straightforward amendment, and I would like to thank the President and Committee for working with me on this. Apologies for the late notice. It has been a long time in the making. But we just managed to get together and sort something out yesterday. And so I am very grateful for the time that they have given to enable us to get here and have an amendment that the Committee can support.

2445 Members might not be aware of what the Register of Contact Details is, but it is a central statutory register, a database, which is intended to be the master for individuals and organisations' contact details and to be made accessible to service areas to only those who actually require specific data. It is all around being able to provide members of the public ... organisations being able to input their information once and once only and effectively make Government more efficient.

2450 It was established under a policy letter in 2016, I think in the last but one States, before it became a statutory register through a projet in 2019. So we hope to be able to use this to form the basis of a digital ID, to be used for instance in a Care Passport. Indeed it might actually be possible, instead of having to recreate an Electoral Roll every four or five years, to be able to use that data the other way and form the basis of the Electoral Roll.

2455 As it stands we do not have up to date data but we did think, Deputy Murray and I, that we saw this as a potential to use the data from the Electoral Roll to populate the Register of Contact Details. However, we are at this stage unsure about the practicalities of that. We do not want to delay the Electoral Roll. We have a firm date when that has to be started and populated itself. But we thought we should make the effort now to see what opportunities there are. And so this, this amendment as the States' Greffier eloquently put, is for the Home Affairs Committee and P&R to investigate those opportunities and report back in September.

2460 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Murray, do you formally second this?

**Deputy Murray:** I do, madam.

2465 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Does anybody wish to speak?  
Yes, Deputy Kazantseva-Miller.

2470 **Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Madam, I wholeheartedly support this amendment and what it is trying to do, because I was slightly flabbergasted to read in section 3.3 of the policy letter, which says there is no reliable source upon which information could be drawn to create an Electoral Roll. We are the Government of Guernsey. We hold, as far as I know, petabytes of information, three petabytes of information on Islanders. If we do not have reliable sources of information on everyone on this Island, well, then no one does.

2475 The true fact is that we do. We absolutely do have reliable source of information. The problem is that it sits in different databases. They do not speak with each other. It is under control of different

regulations. That is the fundamental problem. And this is the problem that we need to solve if we as a Government are going to move into the digital age.

2480 Moving to the concept of a digital identity was fundamental to the transformation of the Estonian government, which started two, well, two-and-a-half decades ago. These are the kinds of things we absolutely have to be moving on. And if it is going to be through having this amendment, which allows us to plug into some existing legislation, I think most of us were not even familiar with, maybe that is the way to do it.

2485 But this is the fundamental aspect of we as a Government need to be looking at having single sources, single databases. All of this data, of course, has to be secure and only accessible for the right users and the users, the people, the businesses will be able to control who actually is able to see that data. But I really think that this is an excellent amendment and hopefully paves the way for also some of the Transformation programme that Deputy Murray is leading on within Government.

I hope he can speak a little bit further to that. So yes, I think please support this amendment. I think it is a very important amendment.

2490 Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Roffey.

2495 **Deputy Roffey:** Madam Deputy Bailiff, I think I am going to vote for this amendment and I think I am going to vote for the main Propositions but I just want to raise one concern.

2500 We do want as many people as possible, as Deputy Prow said in his opening, to sign on the Electoral Roll and it is conceivable that there will be some people out there who say, 'I want to be on the Electoral Roll because I want to vote but, no, I do not particularly want that information to be passed on either to the central register or I have no desire to get another credit card, I do not want my data to be opened up to credit agencies, either.'

It would worry me if there were any people in the Island who would then deny themselves the right to vote simply because we were going to use the data from the Electoral Roll for other purposes.

2505 Now I would not share the logic of those people but there is nowt as queer as folk and Guernsey folk can be queerer than most at times. And I suspect there will be some people who will just be cussed enough to say, 'I am not going to put my name on the Electoral Roll because it is being used for other purposes these days. And what is going to be next? What are you going to open it up to next?' So I do just pose that as an issue.

2510 Nor is it going to crack the issue that Deputy Kazantseva-Miller just mentioned about moving us to an Estonian situation where everybody is listed, because we know about 40% of the Island chooses not to go on the Electoral Roll. So we are going to have to find other ways any way to capture that central data for all of those people who choose, for whatever reason, not to go on the Electoral Roll.

2515 I just want to flag it up. I am going to listen to the debate, if there is any. I am probably going to vote in favour. But I do have a little warning flag waving in my brain that we may deter some Islanders from going on the Electoral Roll and that would really be unfortunate.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

2520 **Deputy Ferbrache:** I am almost in the Deputy Roffey camp but perhaps a bit further. I may be in a minority of one and, if I am, so be it, in relation to the amendment.

2525 It is a last minute amendment. I do not mean any criticism of that because it was explained by Deputy Soulsby. I am certainly going to vote for the main Proposition without any hesitation. I know what they might do in Estonia, and it is fantastic and I have spoken to the Estonian authorities when I was President of P&R and they marched towards digitisation and all the stuff on the IT is fantastic. I do not think that this amendment has anything at all to do with that really, and I just do not like public authorities knowing everything about everybody.

I am very loath indeed to have this big brother, big sister, whatever we might have nowadays, gender, information on the public domain unless it is necessary. It is clearly necessary for the Electoral Roll because people should be encouraged to vote, and we have got to have a proper electoral system.

But this other bit just bothers me and I am not going to vote for it. I do not like it. People should be able to keep their information confidential if they want to and we do not need a big thing where everybody can look at what you are going to do and what you are having for breakfast. So I am certainly not going to vote for the amendment.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** Just in response to Deputy Ferbrache, all this actually says is the Committee shall investigate potential opportunities of using data from the next Electoral Roll for the purpose of updating the Register of Contact Details. It does not actually mean anything is going to happen with it. And also, it is worth reminding that not everyone will be on the Electoral Roll, i.e. no one under the age of 16.

But I think pulling in what Deputy Kazantseva-Miller has said, and I do not want to repeat it, the core of everything we will do in the future will be having accurate data, and it has got to start somewhere. There is nothing in here, in this term anyway, that indicates in any way what we are going to do.

But the basic principle of having accurate data is fundamental to anything we do in our future digital strategy. And it is not always down to the database it is just fat fingers. I could barely type my own address in half the time, so. We do need to start somewhere. And I am afraid life is moving on to this so-called digital age.

I accept what Deputy Roffey is saying but, you know, if Swampy wants to set up a tree and not get access to banking services, what he did not tell you is he got to the tree by car. No one walks anywhere. I understand the importance of privacy. I am absolutely convinced the Commissioner for the Protection of Data will have an eye over this. But I would not not do it if this indeed helps at all. Probably not.

### **Procedural – Order of business**

**The Deputy Bailiff:** I am going to actually suggest we now adjourn for lunch, but Members may recall the terms of the motion that you carried last time, which I understand was that Deputy Trott, as President of Policy & Resources, would deal with his Statement immediately after lunch.

Now I am going to suggest that we do not interrupt business and we finish this matter, including to the end of the general debate on the Electoral Roll. And then I ask Deputy Roffey to give his Statement.

**Deputy Roffey:** I would do it on behalf of P&R if you want me to! *(Laughter)*

**The Deputy Bailiff:** So those who support the motion that we ask Deputy Trott to hold fire immediately after lunch and that he will be the next item on the agenda after we deal with the Electoral Roll, if you could indicate Pour; those against?

*Members voted Pour.*

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Excellent. Thank you very much.

So we will carry on with the Electoral Roll. And then after that we will ask for the Statement.

*The Assembly adjourned at 12.31 p.m.  
and resumed its sitting at 2.30 p.m.*

**COMMITTEE FOR HOME AFFAIRS**

**Preparation of a new Electoral Roll –  
Propositions carried as amended**

2575

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Can I just congratulate Deputy Blin for his new role as Vice-President of the Transport Licensing Authority? Congratulations. (*Applause*)  
Deputy de Sausmarez.

2580

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** Thank you, madam.

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I rose to make a very similar point, actually, to Deputy Inder, but maybe I can articulate it slightly less mumbly-ish. Actually, it follows on from a comment that Deputy Ferbrache made and Deputy Ferbrache commented on the last-minute nature of this amendment and I think the point that Deputy Inder was making, one of them, was that what we are actually being asked to decide by virtue of this amendment is not to go ahead and include this data, is to agree that the two relevant Committees shall go away and investigate the potential opportunities of using the data and report back.

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That will give the Assembly an opportunity to debate it in a much more informed way. The answer to, or potential amelioration, of Deputy Ferbrache's and Deputy Roffey's concerns is really to ask that when the Committees do that work, whether they would be minded to investigate not just the potential opportunities, but also the potential problems or risks and, I am sure that they would anyway, bring all that back in a report; and then we can have an informed debate at that later date, which I think would be much better than having an uninformed debate right now.

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But really it seems to me sensible enough to support this amendment in order to capitalise that piece of work and then have that debate at a later time. So really, I am just seeking, when she responds to debate, for Deputy Soulsby to confirm that that work would also obviously flag any potential risks and any potential mitigation. For example, whether it might be possible to opt out if you were one of the people that Deputy Roffey described.

Thank you.

2600

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Members, if anybody wishes to remove their jackets, you may.

**A Member:** Removal of the jacket!

2605

**Deputy Trott:** Particularly in March!

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Mahoney.

2610

**Deputy Mahoney:** Thank you, madam.

Just very quickly following on from Deputy de Sausmarez, I accept that this is just to investigate, but then if you have no intention of voting for it, even if it investigates and says it is a good idea, then that, to me is a good reason not to vote to investigate it and all the money and time that is going to then be spent on just an investigation.

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So I do not know if others are with Deputy Ferbrache, but I certainly will not be voting for the amendment. I will be voting for the policy letter itself, obviously. And just wondered really, the Government is not the best person to trust with your data, in my view. But that is just a personal view. So I will not be supporting the amendment, but I will be supporting the policy.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Matthews.

2620 **Deputy Matthews:** Thank you.

I will be supporting the amendment. Although I do share Deputy Roffey's concerns about data privacy issues, and it is somewhat reminiscent actually of some of the concerns I think people had in the UK around the poll tax, which was actually so named because people had concerns that putting themselves on the electoral roll would be one of the data sources that would be used to collect the poll tax as it was. So there is a genuine concern about that.

2625 But I think that times have moved on really since then, and that these days people really expect that if they supply some information to one part of an organisation, that it would be used throughout that organisation. I think most people would probably assume that that is already happening and would be surprised that it is not.

2630 So I would certainly support greater sharing of information amongst the States. And I think, as Deputy Kazantseva-Miller correctly stated, that is what we ought to be doing to make ourselves as efficient as we could be. And to be honest, I expect most people would not be surprised by that. I think most people expect that that is how it would happen. That is certainly how you would expect a business to do things.

2635 You would not tell one part of the business a set of information then have to tell another part of business the same thing over again. So I will be supporting the amendment, and I hope that the data privacy issues would be addressed as part of that investigation.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Le Tocq.

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**Deputy Le Tocq:** Thank you, madam.

What I am going to say probably I am going to sound like the late, great Deputy Dave Jones, which may well be appropriate that I am wearing red braces today. But nevertheless I do share as a Guernseyman the sort of concerns that Deputies Roffey and Ferbrache have alluded to. And whilst Deputy Matthews is right, I do think the vast majority of people in Guernsey think that is what already happens and in fact, that can be a problem because it does not already happen, there are a small minority who would be very concerned about these sorts of things.

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So I think it is only right that we express those concerns. And if they can be ameliorated in any way, then I think it is appropriate that we seek to do so. The amendment makes sense. I support the amendment in the sense that we often find ourselves in very difficult positions. If I was asked, do I trust the Government with my data, then I would probably say, no, I do not, actually. I think actually I have been charged wrongly on Income Tax I do not know how many times and I have apparently bought properties that I never remember buying and the like. There is all sorts of data flying out there.

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And yet, like the late, great Deputy Dave Jones, I find myself that I am the Government. So what I am saying is, I do not trust myself. But the fact is, we are not very good at this sort of stuff. And I can understand when people get concerned about private data that is inadvertently shared or that goes beyond what they think is appropriate for themselves. So we do need to have checks and balances in place.

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If that can be done, if the proposals in the amendment can be done, then in my mind they need to be done in such a way that we ensure that people have the opportunity to opt out. We are also under pressure, sometimes from the very same people, to be more efficient and to apply ourselves to the work of Government in a more cost effective way. And this would be a more cost effective way. It would not be the whole solution, but it would go a long way towards that.

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So we have to in some way draw the line between those two and balance them. And in my mind, if that can be achieved by a means of ensuring that those who have concerns over the sharing of data can be assured that they can opt out in those instances, then I think it should be done.

2665

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Murray.

2670 **Deputy Murray:** Thank you, madam.

I rise really largely to try and reassure Deputy Ferbrache in particular over the issues that he was raising. And I would like to probably explain it. I think anybody here would probably say when it comes to legal matters Deputy Ferbrache has got a mind like a steel trap. I think we probably agree he is very effective in the role, his profession. But when it comes to the use of digital technologies  
2675 (*Laughter*) – how can I put this delicately? – he is a late bloomer.

I feel before I get sued that I should probably provide some evidence for that. Members will remember, because thankfully there were witnesses, his phone went off about three times in quick succession during the last Meeting that we had. Despite me having shown him the button on the side that actually stops that from happening. But nevertheless, it only took him three times to get  
2680 it to stop. So I think he is capable of being a very quick learner when he has to.

But he does raise a concern for people who perhaps are not so comfortable with modern technology, digital technology in particular. And I would like to perhaps cite something that brought it quite home to me from the conference that was just held by the digital greenhouse that Deputy Inder referred to earlier on. One of the speakers there made it very plain. If you are like me, and I  
2685 am sure probably most of us, when you signed up for an app or a software or subscription to a website, there are pages and pages and pages of information that you are supposed to read before you tick the box at the bottom to say that you accept.

And we have all done it. You just get to the bottom, tick it because you really want to get to the goodies, whatever they are. By doing so, what you have probably done unwittingly is signed away  
2690 your life. That has happened, and the point was made by one of the speakers that the horse has probably already bolted on this. It came home to me immediately after I left a conference because I had a conference with a Swedish company that have dealings with – and I will not name the company – a UK-based mobile operator; and they showed us what they are already doing, because if you have one of these, they know where you are, they know what you are, they know what your  
2695 preferences are and they use it.

So you go past a shop and they will warn the shop – this might be actually quite helpful for Deputy de Lisle perhaps (*Laughter*) – they will warn you and they will actually present to you the data of the person that is within 10 yards or whatever the case may be, and what their preferences might be. It has got to that point already. We are already there.

That does not allay the fears of people who might think it will be used for nefarious purposes beyond retail, perhaps, and I think it is right to be so. However, this amendment is not doing that. This amendment is trying to correct something that, in fact, Deputy Kazantseva-Miller actually  
2700 mentioned.

All of us have probably signed up to various parts of Government over the years for various things, whether it be utilities, I do not know, have a sofa removed, whatever, and they sit in different  
2705 places. So we are already on Government databases all over the place. It is inefficient, but it is inefficient for the user as well because if you update in one part of the system, for example, if you are a flat owner and you move or you are a flat renter and you move, the old address is still there and the new address only goes on a particular part of the system.

So what we really need as individuals, as users of Government services, is one place to update all of actually the records that Government holds on us for our own effectiveness. Yes, it makes it much more efficient for Government, of course, but it is actually a big service for us to be able to have that opportunity so that the data that we have on record, which you yourself can update, happens once. And then it spreads across the whole piece.

That does not mean that automatically Government is then going to use that data or sell that data in any other way than the purpose for which it was described, and you would have an opt in on that. But the point of this amendment is that, coincidentally, with Home Affairs looking to update the current electoral record, which is largely manual, I suppose you could say, or it is certainly not as digitised as we would want. It is not electronic.

Which in itself I think, as I think Deputy Soulsby mentioned, creates a problem because should you have a credit card or want to use a credit card or sign up for a credit card or many other types  
2720

of card, the fact that Guernsey does not have an electronic database of its Islanders largely prevents you from being able to do that in many places in the world, and that is a real inconvenience for those who wish to do that.

2725 Now we are going to try to address that, or Home Affairs is. And since we will have the most up to date data on individuals, at least those who sign up to be on the Electoral Roll, it does seem to make sense to see whether or not it would be appropriate to be able to translate some of that data into what is called a ROC, which is a Register of Contacts. That ROC is probably the bedrock of what is called myGov, which is the future of delivery of services for Government.

2730 The future of services of delivery for Government that the user drives so they do not have to be open nine to five, to be able to access your account for whatever it may be. You can access it any time of the day or night from anywhere that has got an internet connection. So you will have to identify yourself to the system. So this is just an early inquiry to see whether we can capture that data as that first step.

2735 We intend that myGov will go live in a limited fashion, probably with revenue services, during 2025. And as a consequence, we are hoping also we will have updated the revenue services because they have been going through quite a bit of trauma as they themselves moved to different systems. But we will be able to launch that and then you can actually agree or not agree to the service being made available to you.

2740 So this will not actually make all that happen. All we are doing at this point, as Deputy de Sausmarez mentioned, is looking at the capability of doing that and then coming back and asking whether or not the Assembly would actually like us to do so. So I hope that satisfies people's concerns, because this is not a nefarious approach to try to capture your data. It is an attempt to try to make life easier for Islanders in their dealings with Government.

2745 Thank you, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** Thank you, madam.

2750 I can support this amendment. There is no harm in investigating further; looking into this further. We discussed this, I think, on Home Committee and I think we gave it a poke and prod and we had one or two concerns, and they were duly dealt with in a professional way. And yes, I think I can support it. And I believe my fellow Members on Home are going to support it too. So yes. Thank you. That is all I have to say.

2755

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Haskins.

**Deputy Haskins:** Thank you, madam.

2760 I did share the same concerns that Deputy Ferbrache raised, and others, about Big Brother and, as Deputy Bob Murray has raised. There were some interesting insights from the Innovation Summit that we went to around your mobile phone and what exactly you are already giving to someone just by having one. And I think people here would agree we all need our phones these days, but I would like to –

2765 **Deputy Roffey:** Point of correction.

I have never dreamt of getting a mobile phone!

2770 **Deputy Haskins:** Notwithstanding, madam, what I would like to do is inject a little bit of reasonableness into this Register. The Register collects name, address, date of birth. The telephone number is optional and on hard copies your email address is optional. So name, address and date of birth. I think it is reasonable to think that your Government holds those things.

So whilst I do share the wider concern of Government having so much data, I think I can support this amendment and of course the Electoral Roll. One thing that I do have concerns of is Rule 4(1)(d).

Now there are no financial implications. All very well. Good, said, understood. There are resource implications.

Whenever we as an Assembly are saying, 'Yes, let us do some more work. Just keep piling it on, keep piling it on,' another amendment comes in. We are all under a resource limitation. You cannot just expect that there is an infinite amount of resource for us to put more work streams on. It does not work like that. And something has to give. So my question would be in this case, in order to investigate this, which I think should be very simple because, it is name, address and date of birth, what is going to have to give?

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you.

Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** I was hearing on the radio they even have robot cats now. So cats are developing the Artificial Intelligence. I must have gone to three Artificial Intelligence events last week, including the seminar Deputy Kazantseva-Miller chaired. But I am still in some ways none the wiser. And this amendment, even though it has come from two important P&R members, did confuse me a bit. And my first instinct was a little bit like, I do not know, Deputy Ferbrache, Deputy Roffey, that it would act as an off putting factor.

And of course, I think I knew who the States' Registrar of Electors are through SACC but I was not entirely sure I knew who the Registrar of Contact Details is. Head of the Public Service. So in fact, you are actually dealing with two very trusted, very experienced people. And to me, I do support the amendment. Deputy Murray has given a very brilliant context to this because we are not actually agreeing what will happen yet. What we are agreeing is an Ordinance should be prepared and submitted to the States, no later than New Year's Eve 2024 –

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop, it is to agree the Committee for Home Affairs and Policy & Resources shall investigate the potential opportunities. That is the amendment we are dealing with at the moment.

**Deputy Gollop:** It is a different one from what I have.

The point is they will get on with this. But I think, apart from supporting the amendment, I will speak more generally. And, like Deputy Inder, I praise Deputy Prow for the work that they are doing on the Electoral Roll. And, like Deputy St Pier, he said that parts of the Home Affairs were one of the most active of our Committees at the moment, and I think that is true.

By the way, the current version of the amendment still is not on the States' website, nor is there a paper copy around. But there you go. I just mention the complexities that we have. It was not on the States' order for today or underneath that, but I thought there was an omission in the election because it makes the point how important it is for people to go on the Electoral Roll. And we have got the wider context of it being perhaps used by credit reference agencies and so on.

But we are still doing the same thing we have done for the last 20 years, which is a public relations campaign of encouragement, this time before the end of the year, rather than early next year, to get people to enrol. Whereas I think in other places, including the UK, people actively are put on the Electoral Roll. Students and others are sent cards: 'You are registered at this address; do you accept this?'

Our rates of enrolment, and Jersey too actually, are very low. And that is a concern to me because why are they so low? That may affect some of the financial and business services other Members have mentioned, because Guernsey is punching below its weight in terms of an Electoral Roll of people. Is it dissatisfaction or apathy or cussedness as Deputy Roffey hinted in a slightly different context? I do not know, but –

2825 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop, I am loath to interrupt you, but we are supposed to be talking about the amendment rather than the matters of general debate. Thank you very much.  
Deputy Gabriel.

**Deputy Gabriel:** Thank you, madam.  
2830 I, like Deputy Ferbrache, do have some concerns around the potential for releasing data. And as Deputy Le Tocq also said that, yes, everyone is human, including me – much to some people's surprise! I took advantage of the mydetails.gov.gg page when I moved house, and I note that on there, there is all sorts of information that is able to be opted in to be recorded, such as driving  
2835 licences, your revenue service and Social Security contributions, population management permits and all sorts, even down to boat moorings and Environmental Health and firearms licensing where you can notify Government departments of your new address.

So the data is there already. And it would be, I suppose, better if it was in a Register of Contact Details as this does propose to update. So on balance, I think I could support it, certainly support the amendment with more information coming back to know the pitfalls of not doing it or even  
2840 doing it, but much more importantly, what safeguards there could be if it was implemented.  
Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you.  
Deputy Queripel.

2845 **Deputy Queripel:** Madam, I rise merely to seek clarification on what we are told in the explanatory note, the last sentence of which reads as follows:

It is understood that before any decision can be made as to the use of the data, that exploratory work is undertaken first.

And the Proposition itself reads:

To agree that the Committee for Home Affairs and the Policy & Resources Committee shall investigate potential opportunities of using the data from the next Electoral Roll.

2850 So my question is what will that exploratory work consist of? And I apologise to Deputy Soulsby if she explained that in her opening speech, but I am afraid I did miss it. I am talking on the amendment and in general debate at the same time, madam. I am slightly confused by what we are told in paragraph 5.1 because presumably this is a get out clause for people who do not want their details to be broadcast all over everything.

The exception being that where an individual has registered anonymously, qualifying individuals will be eligible to vote but their details will not appear on the Roll when it is published for the annual inspection or made available to candidates.

2855 So either Deputy Prow or Deputy Soulsby, obviously one of them will be able to help me, I am sure on that. Why do we even need this amendment if people can opt out anyway, they can register anonymously? I might be missing something somewhere –  
Oh, I give way to Deputy Haskins.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Haskins.

2860 **Deputy Haskins:** I am grateful for Deputy Queripel for giving way.  
In the current Electoral Roll, that is version two, I can forward it, page two of five: 'Additional information will be required.' If you are applying for anonymous registration, the document attestation signed by a nominated professional, confirming that your safety would be compromised  
2865 if your details were included in the public roll. I hope that explains.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Queripel.

**Deputy Queripel:** Madam, I thank Deputy Haskins for that. That does explain my confusion in regards to 5.1.

2870 Thank you, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Prow, do you wish to reply on behalf of Home Affairs?

**Deputy Prow:** Yes, please, madam.

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**The Deputy Bailiff:** Yes. Nobody else seems to want to speak.

**Deputy Prow:** I think actually this has been a particularly useful debate, but I just really want to emphasise that the policy letter itself is about the Electoral Roll. One of the points that has come out of the debate so far is the point that Deputy Roffey made right at the start of debating the amendment, which is about how we must encourage as many Islanders as possible to put themselves forward and put their names on the Electoral Roll. That is a very powerful point and I am very pleased that he made that point.

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It is quite interesting, the points are around the information that Government gets and I completely appreciate the concerns that were made by Deputy Roffey and Deputy Ferbrache and, and others. And it is interesting, as Deputy Vermeulen has mentioned, this was subject of much discussion when on last Monday we discussed the amendment.

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The point I would make from a Home Affairs' perspective is why I think the Home Affairs Committee is comfortable with this amendment, and Deputy de Sausmarez and others have pointed out this. What the amendment seeks to do is to investigate potential opportunities for using the data. And that data would be data that would go onto the Register of Contact Details, and that there is a responsible person that does and will oversee that register.

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But the point is those considerations, and I would like to give an assurance to everybody in this Assembly, the assurance around making sure the implications of that data exchange and the pathways will form part of that investigation. As the amendment describes, we will report back by September 2024.

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Now Deputy Haskins has very helpfully actually drawn attention to the fact that there is a provision under section 34A of Reform (Guernsey) Law, 1948, which provides for an individual to make an application to have their name and address omitted from the Electoral Roll. What I would say is that very few people actually take up that opportunity. But as Deputy Haskins has pointed out that is qualified as you have to have a good, legitimate reason, which has got to be underpinned by a police officer, a registered nurse and other responsible people to confirm that there is a legitimate reason. It is important to point out that there are already safeguards around that.

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The other point perhaps I would make is that it is not the Home Affairs' intention and not P&R's intention at the moment. It is simply to investigate. But I would point out that the UK does allow quite wide distribution of the information on the Electoral Roll. And that information actually is quite limited, as was pointed out by Deputy Murray. So I think from a Home Affairs perspective, that is all I would like to say on the matter.

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**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you, Deputy Prow.  
Deputy Soulsby.

2910

**Deputy Soulsby:** Thank you, madam.

I would like to thank Members for the debate. I thought it covered, all ranges from the positives to the negatives and I think all views were heard. So I am very grateful to Members for that. I would just like to reiterate what Deputy Prow was saying at the very start, emphasising people should register to vote and vote.

2915

We know that people have fought hard and long in history to enable us to have the right to vote. We know other jurisdictions and we have just seen recent so-called elections show that democracy does not exist in other places. So we owe those people who have fought hard for us to be able to vote, to do so. And I would encourage everybody to do that.

I will not go through everybody but I do thank Deputy Kazantseva-Miller in referencing paragraph 3.3, when she said she was surprised by the not having that data. That is actually what spurred me to lay this amendment along with talking this through with those people intimately involved with the rollout of the Register of Contact Details and also talking to the Register of Electors. Something needs to be done about this. We cannot continue in the position we are.

I understand totally the comments made by Deputies Ferbrache, Roffey and others who are concerned about what Government will do with the data, but that is an issue in absolutely everything. Data is held now. Deputy Gabriel made a very good point about what data is held. It is held all over the place about people. It is all disjointed, different bits of data held in different places and that data might not be exactly the same in one place as another. I have experienced that.

What we are trying to do is actually make things better and more secure and more, not necessarily secure but at least the data we have got will be accurate and it makes it easier for the public then to update their own information. At the moment it is impossible and that in itself is causing problems. I think talking about people not wanting the Government to have their data, I think increasingly in this modern world, it is very difficult for that not to happen. It is very difficult to live off grid, I think is the term. If you want services that in any way impact Government, you will have to provide that Government with data.

It is irrespective if it is paper or computer, data will be needed. So good luck to people who can avoid that.

But of course this is not about saying we have got the Electoral Roll data and we just move it all and Government will just play around with that data. It is not about that at all. I think Deputy de Sausmarez said when we are looking at the opportunities, it also needs to investigate what safeguards can we put in place?

One thing that I had an original earlier version was to say, can we have an expressed consent tick box to say, 'Yes, I am happy my data be used for here.' I do not know how the credit reference agency stuff will be dealt with. That might have to be done in a similar way, but that is what I would see would be necessary. Deputy Queripel talked about what is the exploratory work? Well, the exploratory work is what we are asking P&R and Home Affairs to look at, which is straightforward. It will look at the opportunities. How can we do it? Can we do it? What safeguarding elements can we bring into this? Is it actually physically possible to do it in the timescale? That will be another one.

Yes, checks and balances. I just talked about checks and balances. So yes, data protection is already an issue when it comes to Government anyway. And holding data and all manner of different forms. As it is with the Electoral Roll, as it exists now. Everybody here will know, when we agreed to stand, that we had the opportunity to have a version of the Electoral Roll. You had to sign that and agree at the end that you would give all the data back.

There are issues around how we deal with making sure that the Electoral Roll, which is effectively run by civil servants, although it is a statutory official who is a civil servant who has that role and has that responsibility.

Deputy Haskins raised a good point about the resources needed for it. I think, and I might be wrong, but there has been a change or an update in terms of Rule 4(1), that has been passed to officers preparing policy letters, etc., about what that element of it means. I think it means new resources. So not necessarily from an amendment point of view how much time it will take. From my understanding, it should not take very much time at all. So the timescale, and Members will see September 2024, that has been discussed with the relevant officers and they think it is achievable.

Whether it means that we can then actually bring in what is needed to transfer or to share the data of the Electoral Roll is another matter. But in terms of investigation, I do not think that is an issue. Deputy Gollop was, I think, talking to an earlier version. The actual amendment is on our desk

2970 and it is online. I think I have covered everything off. But I do thank Members for the debate. I think it did cover all the issues. And I ask Members to support the amendment.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you.

States' Greffier, would you open the voting on the amendment, please?

2975

*There was a recorded vote.*

*Carried – Pour 33, Contre 5, Ne vote pas 2, Did not vote 0, absent 0*

POUR	CONTRE	NE VOTE PAS	DID NOT VOTE	ABSENT
Aldwell, Sue	Ferbrache, Peter	Roberts, Steve	None	None
Blin, Chris	Le Tissier, Chris	Snowdon, Alexander		
Brouard, Al	Leadbeater, Marc			
Burford, Yvonne	Mahoney, David			
Bury, Tina	Roffey, Peter			
Cameron, Andy				
De Lisle, David				
De Sausmarez, Lindsay				
Dudley-Owen, Andrea				
Dyke, John				
Fairclough, Simon				
Falla, Steve				
Gabriel, Adrian				
Gollop, John				
Haskins, Sam				
Helyar, Mark				
Inder, Neil				
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha				
Le Tocq, Jonathan				
Matthews, Aidan				
McKenna, Liam				
Meerveld, Carl				
Moakes, Nick				
Murray, Bob				
Oliver, Victoria				
Parkinson, Charles				
Prow, Robert				
Queripel, Lester				
Soulsby, Heidi				
St Pier, Gavin				
Taylor, Andrew				
Trott, Lyndon				
Vermeulen, Simon				

**The Deputy Bailiff:** In relation to the amendment, there voted Pour, 33; Contre, 5; there were 2 abstentions. I therefore declare the amendment has been passed. We will now turn to general debate.

2980 Deputy Burford.

**Deputy Burford:** Thank you, madam.

2985 It is of course, right that we create a new Electoral Roll for the 2025 Election, for all of the reasons given. The policy letter states that the Committee will undertake a comprehensive publicity campaign with the aim of reaching as many Islanders as possible and encouraging them to ensure their details are included on the Electoral Roll. And of course, this encouragement is undertaken each time the Electoral Roll renews.

The Committee does say it is considering ways to further improve the online registration process, and that is to be welcomed. However, there are currently around 30,000 individuals on the Roll out

2990 of around 50,000 people who are eligible to be on it. In other words, only around 60% of eligible people on this Island sign up.

So whilst we congratulated ourselves on a turnout of nearly 80% at the last election, the plain truth of the matter is that taking those two factors together, less than half of the people who could qualify to vote in an election actually did. And extending that to the number of votes it takes to be elected means that it is possible to be a Member of this Assembly by securing the votes of just 13% of people who would be eligible to vote if they all registered.

I am not advocating for compulsory registration. I really do not want to compel people to do any more than we have to. But I would like to understand why four in 10 people in this Island do not register, because understanding why is the first step to being able to improve matters. So in closing, I have two questions for the President: is the Committee considering any research into what stops people from participating, in order to guide their efforts to improve the level of registration; and does the Committee have a target percentage figure of eligible people that they would like to see registered, and if so, what is it?

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Bury.

**Deputy Bury:** Thank you, madam.

My point follows on quite nicely from Deputy Burford but will be presented far less eloquently. I have had some other things to be dealing with, so I apologise to Deputy Prow for not asking this question ahead of time. But in relation to (iii) of Proposition 2, which states that you close the Electoral Roll registration seven weeks before the election. I suppose my question is really just, is that the minimum amount of time that is required behind the scenes in order to do what we need to do with the data?

Because while seven weeks might not sound very long to those of us who might have been in the thick of the elections and thinking about it far ahead of time, I do not necessarily think that applies to the public despite a campaign to encourage them. It is not something I think that in everyday life perhaps people are so focused on, and if it was possible that they could register closer to the time of the election, to Deputy Burford's point, we may get more people on it.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you.

Deputy Fairclough.

**Deputy Fairclough:** Thank you, madam.

Building on some of the points that have already been made, first of all, I thank the Committee for Home Affairs for laying this policy letter. However, I have to say that I find it somewhat uninspiring. While I think we have to create a new, more accurate Electoral Roll for all the reasons given, I would have liked to have seen greater impetus given to getting more Islanders registered

That intent may well be there, it just is not immediately apparent. And I take slight exception to some of the previous measures stated in paragraph 1.3 of the policy letter. It says a high percentage of those eligible to vote were registered on the Electoral Roll. But that is somewhat subjective, of course. For example, only 59% of 25 to 44-year-olds eligible to be on the Roll signed up four years ago. Fewer than three in five as has been pointed out. A total of 30,411 which was around the target set, I think. But as far as I am aware, and please do correct me if I am wrong, a target has not been set this time, certainly not at this stage.

But as has been pointed out, less than half the population and given voter turnout, in the end, only around one in three Islanders actively participated in the election, although I accept some are obviously ineligible to do so for various reasons, including age. Incidentally, the figure was 63% for the under-25s, but rises to 72% in the 45 to 64 age group and 80% in the 65-and-overs

Just to be clear, I am not knocking the efforts of four years ago. The General Election was a great success, especially in light of the fact there was a global pandemic at the time, and it was a new system of election. We arguably have a greater mandate in this Assembly than any other Assembly that has gone before us.

3045 But what is the sum of our ambition? I would have liked to have seen more in this policy letter about how we are going to reach some of those that have not been reached previously, rather than possibly simply doing what we have always done for the last 20 years. I think Deputy Gollop alluded to that fact when he slipped into general debate during debate on the amendment.

3050 Whether we like it or not, voter apathy is alive and kicking, (*Laughter*) and I think we could and should look to do better and I hope encouraging applicants to provide their date of birth when registering will not put people off. We are told in paragraph 4.4 of this policy letter that a comprehensive publicity campaign will take place. Deputy Burford has already mentioned this with the aim of reaching as many as possible.

3055 I would be grateful, in his summing up, if the President of Home Affairs informed Members what will be done this time to encourage a greater take up, as well as quantifying the costs of preparing a new Roll, because I could not see any financials in this policy letter. So while I am broadly supportive of the Propositions and the objective of making the Electoral Roll more accurate and bringing it up to date, I would be grateful if the points I have made could be addressed.

Thank you, madam.

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**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you.

Deputy Inder.

3065 **Deputy Inder:** If the percentage turnouts and how people get in troubles Deputy Burford, I remind people what happened on the parish system: 13% I think she quoted under the Island-wide voting on the old parish system, you could get in for 2% or in my case, on a bye-election, 1%. Maybe we should go back to the parish system!

3070 So I think we should always be careful of not taking a history back as far as we want to, to prove our point. It could be worse. We could go back to the parish system, or we could go back to option B, where in one month we voted for 10 people and the rest we did one month later. Whose idea was that? Oh, sorry, Deputy Gollop. It was Deputy Gollop's idea. No, it was not Deputy Gollop's idea. It was Deputy Graham's idea who valiantly gave it to Deputy Gollop to promote.

3075 To answer some of the questions, which I do not think have been asked of me. I am a great fan of automatic enrolment. Government knows when you are born. It knows when you go to school, it knows when you leave school, and it knows when you are 18 and it knows when you die. The best thing this Island could do in the future is really drive towards auto enrolment. Not the Australian version where if you do not vote, they kill you (*Laughter*) or maybe it is not that extreme. But certainly automatic enrolment is something that this Island should strive for in the future.

Thank you.

3080

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you.

Deputy Falla.

3085 **Deputy Falla:** Madam, I think Deputy Fairclough raised some very good points, and I would like to think that in order to reach particularly a younger demographic that whatever marketing campaign is embarked on would have a strong digital element because that is how you are going to reach them, basically.

3090 I, along with Deputy Inder, thank Home for the action on ensuring that the new Electoral Roll will be of use for credit referencing. And really, the only other point, which I did give advance notice to Deputy Prow about, is I had not realised that you could be anonymous on the Electoral Roll, and I was questioning why that would be and what was the purpose of it. So I think it might be helpful

in case others share my concern about that or questioning about that if Deputy Prow could just explain it in a little more detail.

Thank you.

3095

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Moakes.

**Deputy Moakes:** Thank you, madam.

3100 I thought I would just read out a couple of the paragraphs in the policy letter just for everyone, to help them. Because a couple of questions have been raised about what is or what is not included. I am very much in favour of this and these points, under availability of the electoral Roll, describe some of the benefits.

So the registration on the Electoral Roll is voluntary. At this point no one is going to be forced to join this at all.

The Electoral Roll shows the details of every registered individual who is eligible to vote, including first and last name, and full postal address.

3105 So the amount of data is fairly limited as well. The exception to this is where an individual has registered anonymously. Qualifying individuals will be 'eligible to vote, but their details will not appear on the Roll when it is published for the annual inspection or made available to candidates'.

3110 The second point I just want to raise is that the Committee, Home, and I thank them for this, is proposing the preparation of rules ahead of the creation of a new Electoral Roll for the 2025 Election that will include the power for the provision of the Electoral Roll to credit reference agencies.

This is something that I am very much championing for some of the reasons that have been raised already, and one of those reasons is representations from the Committee *for* Economic Development in response to increasing concerns expressed by businesses and consumers about the lack of access to certain banking services, this might well help.

Providing the ability for credit reference agencies to access the Electoral Roll data will assist in the verification services which they provide to banks and credit card companies, and this mirrors the UK framework, although registration on the domestic Electoral Roll will continue to be voluntary here.

3115 And finally 5.5:

The Committee will ensure that the necessary protections and controls are in place to maintain the security of individuals' personal information before formalising the Rules.

I had one question, and that is that it says that the Electoral Roll will be closed seven weeks before the date of the 2025 General Election. I get that. My question, however, is when will it reopen? Because if this is a live Electoral Roll being used to check things and for people's benefits, it is imperative that if it is turned off, then we know when it is going to be turned back on again so anybody that needs to update their personal details for whatever reason, has the opportunity to do so at the earliest possible time.

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In summary, I think this is a really good first step. It is great news. And what we need to then do, a couple of people have already said this, is find out how we can then encourage more people to register so the real true benefits of this can be felt by everyone on the Island.

3125

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Dudley-Owen.

**Deputy Dudley-Owen:** Thank you, madam.

3130

Just a few short points. Thank you to the Home Affairs Committee for bringing forward this policy letter. But also to address some areas raised by Deputies Fairclough and Falla relating to our

young people, to appraise the Assembly that I went to a residential for Youth Forum members, I think back in September last year, where they had set themselves a task to increase the age of participation amongst 16-year-olds and those of our young people who were eligible to vote, as a result of some of our proposals last term that were approved to lower the voting age.

It is hopefully reassuring to Members that there is a project ongoing to increase that participation number. They had targets that they had set themselves and also action points as to how they would, I suppose, increase awareness around the importance of voting, do some information gathering, etc. I will get an update on that for Members and send that round just because I think it will be of interest.

But Deputy Burford was asking about increasing participation, and it is always a point of consternation amongst us, isn't it? But it is inevitable that in this day and age of disruption and deep distrust of Government that participation rates reduce. I personally think it is about trust in Government and I also think it is about relevance.

A lot of people are just simply not interested in politics. We obviously love it because we live and breathe it, but a lot of people, until it touches their lives, they are not interested in it. In actual fact, some people actively stay away from it. So good luck with increasing the voter participation. I hope we can. I think it is an uphill struggle. I think possibly the Youth Forum will have much greater success in increasing participation amongst young people, because they are far more enthusiastic and convincing about the politics than we are. But as I say, I will keep Members updated on that progress.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Haskins.

**Deputy Haskins:** Thank you.

Two points really. First one to Deputy Falla. This was actually raised in the last amendment, but I will say it again. A member of the public can be anonymous if they have a document signed by a nominated professional, as Deputy Prow highlighted, that could be a police officer, nurse, etc., confirming that their safety would be compromised if their details were included. I just wanted to re-emphasise that.

My only other question, madam, is paragraph 3.5. The second sentence says:

The Committee recommends that the Registrar-General of Electors encourage applicants to provide their date of birth when registering as this will assist in ensuring the accuracy of the Electoral Roll.

The previous Electoral Roll date of birth was mandatory. So I would have thought in order to follow the previous sentence, which is in 3.4, it will 'mirror' the approach taken ahead of previous elections, date of birth should be on it. And then the second point is how does one know if they are eligible to vote if their date of birth is not on there?

So I would just like confirmation of that because it could be related to the first part of 3.5 says 'in order to further improve online registration'. But again, I think you would need to know that you are above 16, for example. So if that could be clarified what the intentions are, that would be appreciated.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Kazantseva-Miller.

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Madam, I think colleagues have made some excellent points in terms of the issues with a lack of automatic enrolment, and Deputy Burford in her usual style has given us some excellent statistics about what it actually means, and I have absolutely no doubt that the lack of auto-enrolment is a major issue as to why we do ultimately have lower voter turnout.

3180 This is exactly the reason why we now have secondary pensioners with automatic enrolment because the statistics are very simple. If you are auto enrolled, it is much easier. You remove the barriers to make it happen. I certainly knew a lot of people who, for whatever reasons, did not enrol in the Electoral Roll last time just because it was not on their radar.

3185 We, probably all of us, read *The Guernsey Press* and follow media sources, etc. but some people for different reasons do not. And I do want to remind Members that actually the Committee is under Resolution from April 2019 to pursue the automated compilation of the Electoral Roll from Government-held information. I do not understand, I do not think there is any information really given to us. So this is six years ago, five years ago, why that has not been pursued. And the reason given is there is a lack of reliable information, but we have that information.

3190 We have the information. If you are a child, what age you are. That is held by Education. We have all the information about people working in Guernsey. They will be resident here. We have information of those people who are receiving a pension, who are paying TRP, etc. We have all the information already.

3195 The other point is that as far as I can see, the Electoral Roll is a pure method of self-certification. You sign a paper saying, yes, I am 15 or will be 16 at the time of voting and I have been ordinarily resident, etc. It is a self-certification – as far as I can see – form. We do not then go and start verifying that information against databases and sources we have held. And I can see the President is nodding. So it is a self-certification process. We do not even know whether it is true actually how accurate it is or not ultimately, right? It is self-certification.

3200 I just feel like we have not actually done enough, and I was wondering whether more could be done to start embarking us on the process of getting to automatic enrolment. Perhaps Deputy Soulsby's amendment will help, but I would have hoped that the Committee would have had a better view and position of how we could get there. So this is really a question to the President to see has the Committee thought a bit further about how we could get to an auto enrolment Electoral Roll process?

3205 The other point I did want to pick up. Deputy Bury said in relation to the Electoral Roll closing seven weeks before, and this is currently Proposition 2(iii). I very much agree with her that having that deadline is also a barrier. My understanding is that the reason why it is seven weeks before the election is to enable for the Electoral Roll to be printed so that potential candidates can use that for canvassing. But I would rather have that process to be as close to the election as possible, even if that means Deputies will not be able to canvass all the people on the Electoral Roll, which we would not anyway, right?

3210 But I would rather have that and push that as close as possible, because I think you can push that very close to the election to a point where because you just need to print them for the voting you just need that for the time of voting rather than have it seven weeks closed.

3215 I, at the moment, do not want to vote for Proposition 2(iii) because I think that is unnecessarily restrictive. So I would like to ask for that Proposition to be separated out and for a vote to be taken separately. But really a question to the President whether that could be considered and whether actually we can push the boundary of closing the Electoral Roll much closer to the election and provide candidates at the election with whatever Electoral Roll is available, at that point.

3220 I think that is all the points from me. Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Blin.

**Deputy Blin:** Thank you, madam.

3225 It was actually after Deputy Dudley-Owen was also speaking about examples of the Youth Assembly Forum, we have the Youth Commission involved with our Youth Assembly here, but we had the privilege, Deputy Burford, myself and H.M. Greffier, to visit the Senate recently as part of the CPA visit. It is a remarkable parliament there. It is a very young parliament, very much based on digital aspects, etc., and they have looked at the age reducing the age to 16. And, and the reason for that is that they have an actual youth parliament, youth assembly. And that assembly conducts

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its assembly for a shorter term. But that allows the youngsters, the younger people, to go in from 16 to 18 or 19.

3235 So we are creating, or they are rather creating, individuals who become interested and develop. And therefore that is another way of inviting them to do that. But this is done on a larger scale, i.e. not the sort of several times a year, but a constant. So that is another way of attracting the younger people and increasing that role.

3240 The other factor that we really do need to consider for our Island when we are working with so many guest workers, and that has clearly increased since Brexit and everything there, that we should also engage with the foreign nationals and seek to encourage, where they are entitled according to their permits and applications, to see how they could also participate in and be on the Roll as well. Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Matthews.

3245 **Deputy Matthews:** Thank you, madam.

I would like to I support in general the Propositions, but I think that I share many of the concerns that people have said about this closure of the Electoral Roll some seven weeks before the election. And a lot of people have mentioned, Deputies Inder, Bury and Kazantseva Miller, have mentioned about the preference for auto-enrolment, which is something that I share, and I think that it would be much better if we could just use the information sources that we have got in order to get the maximum number of people that we could possibly get enrolled onto the Electoral Roll and able vote.

3255 And that would seem to me to be in line with the objectives that were being set out to enable a high percentage of those who are eligible to vote to be registered on the Electoral Roll, and the majority of those who are on the Electoral Roll to cast their vote. Seven weeks, seems to be quite an impediment to it. And it does seem to be the main blockage for that is just the administration time, because as we see in section 4.3 it is saying that the Electoral Roll will be closed just seven weeks before the General Election. And it seems to be administration reasons to do that rather than any particular reason.

3260 As well as the option for auto-enrolment, I wonder if the Committee had considered other options, such as same day registration or election day registration, which is a process that some systems use, whereby for those who have neglected to register themselves, they are able to simply supply the details on a form, up to and including the actual date of the election, which then can be processed in arrears or checked and processed in arrears.

3265 That is a process which if we do not have the information or sufficient information available in order to provide auto-enrolment, and also in cases where people's details change because people do things like move house the day before the election or change their details the day before the election, which can then mean that they are not able to vote or they just are not able to get to register to vote.

3270 So I think I would like to, I wonder if I could ask the Committee President if they have investigated the possibility of late registration or same day registration that would maybe alleviate some of the issues that they may have encountered with auto-enrolment, which I think would be the strong preference for certainly myself, and I think some Members, in order to achieve the objectives, which is to maximise the number of people who are able to vote in the election.

3275 So I would actually echo Deputy Kazantseva-Miller's suggestion that Proposition 2(iii) be separated out, if that can be done because I do not really feel that I want to vote for the seven weeks. It seems like a very long time and I would prefer it if we could find another solution to that. Thank you.

3280 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Mahoney.

**Deputy Mahoney:** Thank you, madam.

Since no one else stood, I was going to test the appetite for 26(1). I will try it but if there are only a few people then we would not.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Mahoney has suggested that we guillotine this debate. Those who wish to speak, will they stand in their places? I think Deputy Mahoney is not going to carry on with his motion for a guillotine debate and Deputy Oliver, please, would you contribute?

**Deputy Oliver:** Thank you, madam.

It was just really quick. And it was just to speak on the closure of the new Election Roll seven weeks before. I cannot remember the exact timing, but I know in the last Committee I am sure it was less than that. I have got two figures in my head. It was either three weeks or five weeks and I cannot remember which.

But if the Committee could work on that, then that would actually help, because I know so many people, and particularly once actually the list of Deputies who are standing, so many people go, 'Oh, if you had been standing, I know I would have got on the Register like that.' So it is a shame that actually we cannot have an ongoing one, like in so many other countries.

Thank you.

**Deputy Gabriel:** Sorry to steal Deputy Mahoney's thunder. I would like a point of clarification on –

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gabriel.

**Deputy Gabriel:** Sorry, thank you for calling me, madam.

To apologise to Deputy Mahoney. I was not going to speak, and I am only asking for a point of clarification on the voting. Two Members have asked for separate voting on 2(iii) and my understanding is that we have not been able to do that in the past under a previous Presiding Officer will you be allowing us to vote separately on one Proposition with three sub-Propositions? That is the question.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** It is possible and it will take the States' Greffier a little time to work out the electronics of it. He may have already done it. (**The States' Greffier:** Madam, I have done it.) There we are. That is marvellous. The worth of email correspondence while you are all talking.

Yes, we can do it and I am willing to separate up into sub-Propositions. At the moment, what I would be minded to do is take each Proposition separately and 2(i), 2(ii) and 2(iii) separately. We also need to vote separately on the amendment for 3.

So it will be broken down into those sub portions. If nobody else wishes to speak in general debate, I will ask Deputy Prow to reply on behalf of Home.

**Deputy Prow:** Thank you, madam, and I thank everybody for contributing to this debate. It is absolutely a fundamental of democracy that we have a full and fair election and we are due one in 2025.

I think in my summing up, I need to explain quite clearly to the Assembly what this policy letter is and what it is not. This policy letter from Home Affairs is restricted to the functions and the mandate of Home Affairs, which is simply to be responsible for the Electoral Roll and the underpinning legislation around it. So in some ways it is a technical amendment.

The clue is actually in the Propositions. What this Assembly is being asked to do is to approve the compilation of a new Electoral Roll for the 2025 Election and direct the drafting of legislation to provide for the creation of the new Roll. And then in the subsections after it, the validity of it and the closure of it.

Very much the 2025 Election and the elections before it, it is a States-wide collaboration, the actual responsibility overall for a successful election rests with the States' Assembly & Constitution Committee and some of the questions that have been posed really will much better be answered by them.

It is a collaboration insofar as the responsibility of Home Affairs is to make sure that both the legislation and the technical underpinning processes that go with it are in place. And this is what this policy letter is about.

Having said that, some very interesting and important issues have been filled out. But as President of Home Affairs, I am reasonably limited in being able to provide you with full answers. I will not go through everybody's contribution as I have listed them, because it has become quite clear to me that there are some connecting themes that are coming out.

So I think that the first point is, and this is being reinforced by requests to the Deputy Presiding Officer around splitting out the Propositions, I must explain that around the Proposition (iii), the closure of the new Electoral Roll seven weeks before the date of the 2025 General Election ... As this debate is being unfolded, we have some very worried officers listening in to this debate, because, whilst I understand all the arguments made, and I was very grateful for Deputy Oliver's interjection at the end and her comment, this debate happens around every election.

The reason really is that that seven weeks is linked with the postal vote system, preparing the ballots and this is why, because there is a shedload of work that needs to happen between the closing of the Electoral Roll and the election. So this is not Home Affairs having a cosy chat: 'Should we make it seven weeks? No, make it three weeks.' We are acting on advice of officers, the team, that is actually led by SACC and I am very pleased to see the President of SACC is back in the Assembly, this is a team effort in putting an election together. And the Registrar-General of Electors and a limited number of staff in Home Affairs have to do a whole lot of work.

And that is a technical reason. That is why the seven weeks has been hit upon. And whilst we might have an opinion about whether that time is right or not, I had no suggestion from those who brought it up about what that timescale should be. Hopefully, what I am trying to do is persuade Members of the Assembly if you enter the votes separately, that we do vote 2(iii).

I think again and it was a point powerfully made, actually by Deputy Burford – and I am glad she made it, I hope that the States' Assembly & Constitution Committee heeded everything that she said – it is absolutely imperative – and I agree with the point she is making – have we done enough research? Do we need to do more research around asking those questions, whether it is young people, why are people not putting themselves forward? And I think that that is an important part of the discussion.

But the policy letter that was described as uninspiring does actually address this. What we are making clear whether it is just the responsibilities of Home Affairs or the wider responsibilities of SACC, that a comprehensive public publicity campaign will take place. And that is work that is ongoing. And I think if there is one message from the Assembly that underpins the importance –

I will give way to Deputy Kazantseva-Miller.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Kazantseva-Miller.

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Thank you for giving way.

I wanted to pick up the President's point in relation to postal voting. I think that is quite an important point. And the last election there were issues in relation to the timing with the postal vote. I think some people did not receive it actually in time or until very close to the election. I think it is normal practice that whoever wants to do postal voting, that there are different timelines or deadlines in relation to postal vote registration. This should not prevent potentially looking to a staggered approach with the deadlines and the ability to still register for the electoral votes as close as possible, taking into account that if you want to do a postal vote, perhaps there is a different deadline. Once you have missed that, that is it, you could not receive a postal vote.

3385 So I would really still encourage Members that there are nuances we can explore here, and we can work around some of the problems that have been identified, such as postal, by having a different deadline for registration for postal voting, and that I think Proposition 3 should be explored in more detail.

Thank you.

3390 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Prow.

**Deputy Prow:** Yes, I thank Deputy Kazantseva-Miller for that interjection and her suggestion. In my response, what I am saying is that I am guided by the advice that I have been given and I was explaining the seven weeks. One factor, not the complete factor, is around the postal voting system and any feedback to the team around the mechanics of that are gratefully received.

3395 So just moving on. Yes, the debate has quite rightly mentioned, the automated Electoral Roll. Well, yes, if we were able to have an automated electronic Electoral Roll a lot of the issues that have been teased out in this debate would not actually be issues at all. I completely accept that. The fact of the matter, as far as Home Affairs is concerned, is about resources, resources, resources.

3400 When I am talking about resources I am talking about human resources and I am talking about the underpinning IT resources. The fact of the matter is that we are faced with a situation that the Electoral Roll we have is not reliable enough to bring in a 2025 election. The underpinning, wider IT projects at myGov have not been progressed sufficiently to be able to provide an automated Electoral Roll.

3405 If you are asking me as a Deputy, I completely support the use of IT. The arguments have been very well made. But the problem is that is not the situation that Home Affairs is faced with. So we are asking this Assembly to close the old Roll and replace it with a new Electoral Roll and that the automated Electoral Roll is going to be work in progress. But that does not just rely on Home Affairs, it relies on the support that we will get from Policy & Resources. I think in that regard, we and the Assembly will be pushing against an open door.

3410 I am very pleased, I think from the feedback I have got from this debate, that the credit reference agency argument is well made out. I thank Deputy Moakes for reinforcing that. This is a practice that is used in the UK where those credit reference agencies can verify that very simple information from the use of Electoral Roll and in the United Kingdom, the use of the Roll for wider purposes than an election seems to be acceptable and does not appear to detract, or to be a cause for detracting for people, for registering on it.

3415 I am just closing off my notes. I do not want to miss out any of the very valid points that were made. Bear with me.

3420 Just returning to the point made around the education and the communications that we need to put out, I reinforce this is going to be principally led by the States' Assembly & Constitution Committee. Home Affairs will absolutely support that. And I was very grateful to Deputy Dudley-Owen who has outlined, particularly for the younger generation the initiatives that are going on around education.

3425 Deputy Haskins. Yes, thank you very much.

To Deputy Falla's question you have already briefly outlined what the anonymous registration details are. I referred to the Reform Law and the legislation is quite specific where people can register anonymously and Deputy Haskins very helpfully outlined what that was and I have responded in detail to Deputy Falla –

3430 I will give way to Deputy Matthews.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Matthews.

**Deputy Matthews:** Thank you, madam.

3435 I was wondering if Deputy Prow had remembered that I had asked a question if the Committee had considered or might consider – since we do have this rather odd procedure of closing an

Electoral Roll from one election to another, which I am not sure is normal, I am not sure there are many other countries that do that, it seems to be a Guernsey specific thing, I have not heard of it anywhere else – whether the Committee had considered or might consider a practice which is implemented elsewhere of same-day registration or election day registration, where people who are not on the Electoral Roll, but during the postal voting period or during actually up to the election day itself can provide their information and get themselves registered to vote and make a vote at the same time.

I am just reading some information here. For example, in the United States, it says that 22 states have implemented same-day registration, which allows any qualified resident of the state to register and vote and cast a ballot at the same time. So this might be in advance of being able to have auto enrolment, a potential useful feature.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Prow.

**Deputy Prow:** I thank Deputy Matthews for his enquiry.

The honest answer is that specific point that he raises has not been specifically discussed. But I will tell you what has been discussed is the amount of resource that is required to put into an election. And if we are going to make *ad hoc* arrangements around every eventuality, I do not think at this present moment in time, both from an IT infrastructure point of view and the resources available, really allow us to cater for every eventuality.

But I do understand, and I think that the team that puts this together understands that there are limitations and there are areas where the public may be in difficulty. But I would simply answer his question by saying what resources are available.

Deputy Haskins did, I think, ask a specific question around 3.5. and I think the only real answer that I can give to him is at least section 3.5, the Committee does make a commitment it is considering ways to improve online registration process to ensure that the registration process is easy, accessible and secure. The Committee encourages the Registrar-General of Electors to encourage voters to provide their date of birth when registering as this will assist in ensuring the accuracy of Electoral Roll, which actually goes into another point.

Government is always reliant on the accuracy and the honesty of declarations that are made. That is the way of the world. You have to have a starting point where applications are made and, simply with the resources available, you have to take them at face value unless you have a specific reason not to agree them.

This has been quite a long debate –

I give way to Deputy Haskins.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Haskins.

**Deputy Haskins:** I am grateful for the President giving way. The point that I was trying to make was for the previous Electoral Roll, date of birth was actually mandatory in the Roll. It seems in here, in this policy letter, that it could be that the Registrar-General of Electors encourage applicants, with the implication being that it might not be necessary. I just wonder whether that is the case or not.

And also, in light of the Propositions being split out, I just would appreciate some comment from the President around the implications of having a void where there is no closing date and what that could do to costs.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you.

Deputy Prow.

**Deputy Prow:** I thank Deputy Haskins for clarifying the question he posed. And I apologise that I obviously did not completely get my head around what he was asking. I think at this stage in the debate on both those specific points, I will get back to him and obviously share that with the rest of the Assembly. I am pretty sure I know the answer, but I certainly do not want to mislead the Assembly.

So hopefully I have counted through all the points made. Again, I thank all those that contributed to the debate. This is a very important policy letter. And just to remind the Assembly that the Home Affairs role in all this is the providing for an Electoral Roll. It is very much technical, but I will give a commitment to the President of SACC, who have the overall responsibility, that every assistance that we can give to SACC from Home Affairs will be provided. And I very much ask the Assembly to approve all the Propositions that are before them.

Thank you, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you, Deputy Prow.

As we have been asked to separate out 2(iii), before I ask the States' Greffier to start voting, is there any wish for subparagraphs (i) and (ii) to be separated out? Silence, so we will deal with them separately. So the order that the votes will be is as follows. There will be a vote on Proposition 1, then Proposition 2(i) and (ii) then Proposition 2(iii) and then Proposition 3.

So, States Greffier, would you commence the voting on Proposition 1?

*There was a recorded vote.*

*Proposition 1.*

*Carried – Pour 38, Contre 0, Ne vote pas 2, Did not vote 0, absent 0*

POUR	CONTRE	NE VOTE PAS	DID NOT VOTE	ABSENT
Aldwell, Sue	None	Roberts, Steve	None	None
Blin, Chris		Snowdon, Alexander		
Brouard, Al				
Burford, Yvonne				
Bury, Tina				
Cameron, Andy				
De Lisle, David				
De Sausmarez, Lindsay				
Dudley-Owen, Andrea				
Dyke, John				
Fairclough, Simon				
Falla, Steve				
Ferbrache, Peter				
Gabriel, Adrian				
Gollop, John				
Haskins, Sam				
Helyar, Mark				
Inder, Neil				
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha				
Le Tissier, Chris				
Le Tocq, Jonathan				
Leadbeater, Marc				
Mahoney, David				
Matthews, Aidan				
McKenna, Liam				
Meerveld, Carl				
Moakes, Nick				
Murray, Bob				
Oliver, Victoria				
Parkinson, Charles				
Prow, Robert				
Queripel, Lester				
Roffey, Peter				

Soulsby, Heidi  
St Pier, Gavin  
Taylor, Andrew  
Trott, Lyndon  
Vermeulen, Simon

3510 **The Deputy Bailiff:** In relation to Proposition 1, there voted Pour, 38; and there were 2 abstentions. I therefore declare the Proposition passed and will ask States' Greffier to commence voting on Propositions 2(i) and 2(ii).

*There was a recorded vote.*

*Propositions 2(i) and (ii).*

*Carried – Pour 37, Contre 1, Ne vote pas 2, Did not vote 0, absent 0*

POUR	CONTRE	NE VOTE PAS	DID NOT VOTE	ABSENT
Aldwell, Sue	Matthew, Aidan	Roberts, Steve	None	None
Blin, Chris		Snowdon, Alexander		
Brouard, Al				
Burford, Yvonne				
Bury, Tina				
Cameron, Andy				
De Lisle, David				
De Sausmarez, Lindsay				
Dudley-Owen, Andrea				
Dyke, John				
Fairclough, Simon				
Falla, Steve				
Ferbrache, Peter				
Gabriel, Adrian				
Gollop, John				
Haskins, Sam				
Helyar, Mark				
Inder, Neil				
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha				
Le Tissier, Chris				
Le Tocq, Jonathan				
Leadbeater, Marc				
Mahoney, David				
McKenna, Liam				
Meerveld, Carl				
Moakes, Nick				
Murray, Bob				
Oliver, Victoria				
Parkinson, Charles				
Prow, Robert				
Queripel, Lester				
Roffey, Peter				
Soulsby, Heidi				
St Pier, Gavin				
Taylor, Andrew				
Trott, Lyndon				
Vermeulen, Simon				

3515 **The Deputy Bailiff:** There voted in relation to Propositions 2(i) and 2(ii), Pour, 37; 1 Contre and 2 abstentions. I therefore declare the Propositions have been passed.

Would you therefore open the voting on Proposition 2(iii), please, States' Greffier.

*There was a recorded vote.*

*Proposition 2(iii).*

*Carried – Pour 31, Contre 6, Ne vote pas 3, Did not vote 0, absent 0*

<b>POUR</b>	<b>CONTRE</b>	<b>NE VOTE PAS</b>	<b>DID NOT VOTE</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Aldwell, Sue	Bury, Tina	Gollop, John	None	None
Blin, Chris	Cameron, Andy	Roberts, Steve		
Brouard, Al	De Sausmarez, Lindsay	Snowdon, Alexander		
Burford, Yvonne	Gabriel, Adrian			
De Lisle, David	Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha			
Dudley-Owen, Andrea	Matthews, Aidan			
Dyke, John				
Fairclough, Simon				
Falla, Steve				
Ferbrache, Peter				
Haskins, Sam				
Helyar, Mark				
Inder, Neil				
Le Tissier, Chris				
Le Tocq, Jonathan				
Leadbeater, Marc				
Mahoney, David				
McKenna, Liam				
Meerveld, Carl				
Moakes, Nick				
Murray, Bob				
Oliver, Victoria				
Parkinson, Charles				
Prow, Robert				
Queripel, Lester				
Roffey, Peter				
Soulsby, Heidi				
St Pier, Gavin				
Taylor, Andrew				
Trott, Lyndon				
Vermeulen, Simon				

3520 **The Deputy Bailiff:** In relation to Proposition 2(iii), there voted Pour, 31; Contre, 6; and there were 3 abstentions. I therefore declare the Proposition has been passed.

And finally, in relation to Proposition 3, please, States' Greffier, would you kindly open the voting?

*There was a recorded vote.*

*Proposition 3.*

*Carried – Pour 33, Contre 5, Ne vote pas 2, Did not vote 0, absent 0*

<b>POUR</b>	<b>CONTRE</b>	<b>NE VOTE PAS</b>	<b>DID NOT VOTE</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Aldwell, Sue	Ferbrache, Peter	Roberts, Steve	None	None
Blin, Chris	Le Tissier, Chris	Snowdon, Alexander		
Brouard, Al	Leadbeater, Marc			
Burford, Yvonne	Mahoney, David			
Bury, Tina	Roffey, Peter			
Cameron, Andy				
De Lisle, David				
De Sausmarez, Lindsay				
Dudley-Owen, Andrea				
Dyke, John				
Fairclough, Simon				
Falla, Steve				
Gabriel, Adrian				
Gollop, John				
Haskins, Sam				

Helyar, Mark  
Inder, Neil  
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha  
Le Tocq, Jonathan  
Matthews, Aidan  
McKenna, Liam  
Meerveld, Carl  
Moakes, Nick  
Murray, Bob  
Oliver, Victoria  
Parkinson, Charles  
Prow, Robert  
Queripel, Lester  
Soulsby, Heidi  
St Pier, Gavin  
Taylor, Andrew  
Trott, Lyndon  
Vermeulen, Simon

3525

**The Deputy Bailiff:** There voted in relation to Proposition 3, Pour, 33; Contre, 5; and there were 2 abstentions. I therefore declare the Proposition has been passed.

Thank you very much.

## Statements

### **General update – Statement by the President of the Policy & Resources Committee**

3530 **The States' Greffier:** Article 4, Requête –

**The Deputy Bailiff:** No, I am terribly sorry to interrupt you, States' Greffier, but we are actually going to go to the President of P&R.

3535 **The States' Greffier:** Oh yes!

**The Deputy Bailiff:** So can I kindly ask Deputy Trott, as President of P&R to give his first general update Statement.

3540 **Deputy Trott:** You can, madam, and it will be a pleasure.

It is a great privilege to hold the office of President of the Policy & Resources Committee and a further privilege to give my Committee's first general Statement to the Assembly since our election in December. I am grateful to the Assembly in allowing the Statement to be moved to the afternoon in order that I could accompany Deputy Le Tocq to a GFSC and Guernsey Finance event in London last night, highlighting the significant economic and social value which Guernsey's financial services sector provides to the whole of the UK.

Celebrating the Island's continued successes in this regard, in the company of various Ministers, MPs and Lords, proved a useful contribution to our ongoing engagement with the UK parliamentarians, particularly as they head towards their general election.

3550 Moving back to P&R, our priorities. In December I made clear the challenge of the work ahead of us and I have not changed my view. Later this week we will have been in office some 100 days and in addition to managing our own diverse priorities, a significant amount of our time is dedicated to responding to the requests of other Committees and external stakeholders.

3555 Personally, I have very much enjoyed this aspect of our mandate and the engagement with colleagues across the Assembly and beyond, and we look forward to maintaining this ongoing dialogue for the remainder of the term. Madam, given the time constraints, I cannot do justice to the full breadth of the Committee's mandate and would therefore focus on our three most significant areas of work – public finances, housing and Moneyval – before providing some high level observations on wider activity.

3560 The provisional closing position for 2023 is now available, subject to further year-end adjustments and audit. Now, while an underlying deficit of £35 million remains, it is positive news, with income achieving expectations and expenditure lower than budgeted, there is excluding investment return, capital income and Guernsey Port losses, a surplus of £41.7 million, an improvement of nearly £32 million compared to the original 2023 Budget.

3565 Revenue income for the year stands at over £600 million – £18.1 million ahead of budget. This is largely attributable to Income Tax receipts, which benefited from a one-off increase in tax from banks due to the increasing interest rate environment, enabling a temporary widening of margins. However, ETI receipts, which is the best real time indicator of economic performance, also performed strongly, up on budget by £8.4 million, with year on year growth of over 2% in real terms – 2% *in real terms*. This was partly driven by growth in the number of individuals working. This together compensated for the reduction in Document Duty, reflecting a slowdown in housing market activity.

3575 Moving to expenditure. The overall allocation was underspent by some £13.7 million, reflecting a period of restraint on service developments, whilst the Funding & Investment Plan was being developed. Of course, individual Committees have faced their own financial pressures, most noticeably the Committee for Health & Social Care, who overspent by 1.8% or £3.9 million in cash terms. This illustrates the importance of investing in the system-wide changes needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of health and care challenges, and I am grateful for the ongoing work being undertaken by Deputies Soulsby and Murray with colleagues from Health & Social Care.

3580 Turning now to investment return, that is the unrealised gain on our investments based on market valuations at year end. There was a positive variance of £7.6 million against a budget of £26.6 million. This was below the return of global equity markets, reflecting the balanced range of investments held by the States of Guernsey, including equity, property and bonds. The significant activity to restructure the portfolio during 2023 also resulted in a drag on performance.

3585 Overall, however, despite the improved performance compared to Budget, an underlying deficit still exists. Once depreciation, £29 million; finance charges, £10 million; non-capitalised project spend, £23 million; and the deficits for the trading entities, which amount to £7.5 million and the contributory funds, £8.5 million; are taken into account an underlying deficit, excluding investment return of £35 million is revealed. So that is the current backward looking structural deficit. Now to put that figure into context, it equates, and I say this simply for illustrative purposes, to a 2% increase in personal Income Tax rates based on 2023 values.

3590 I am surprised Members find that amusing. It is simply for illustrative purposes, nothing more. But looked at in those terms, there are meaningful opportunities available to address the deficit if considered appropriate.

3595 Similarly, the Assembly needs to address how demographic pressures are increasing the pressures on the Social Insurance funds, in particular the Long-Term Care scheme. We are currently in a position where, year on year, we are depleting the reserves as expenditures to support those accessing the schemes exceeds the income being received from the working population.

3600 I next move to the issue of resolving the supply of affordable housing, our top priority. Not only will this have a direct and positive impact on those Islanders currently unable to find and fund suitable housing, but it is also a key facilitator to achieving wider success for our economy. We need to attract and retain staff in an ever more competitive recruitment market, and ensuring appropriate housing is available is critical in supporting business, the delivery of the Government Work Plan and ultimately the economy. And I do not think there is a Member in this Assembly who would disagree with those last few sentences.

3605

But we must not be under any illusion of how difficult the task is, especially with last week's publication of the Property Stock Bulletin, which shows there was only a net increase of 94 units of accommodation last year. And this is nothing short of failure, which cannot be allowed to continue.

As a Committee, we have focused on facilitating the work of Principal Committees to accelerate building activity. The States and the Guernsey Housing Association have, over recent years, taken positive steps to acquire land. It is now a case of ensuring spades in the ground as quickly as possible, and Deputy Murray, as property lead, is working with the States' Property Unit and external advisers where complementary skills are required to ensure our housing priorities are properly resourced.

Deputy Soulsby and I are meeting regularly with Deputies Roffey and de Sausmarez to understand and address the barriers to delivery, and to co-ordinate the progress being made against the Affordable Housing Capital Programme and Guernsey Housing Plan. And this means not just looking at the building of houses in isolation, but the wider enablers and infrastructure requirements.

A key example has been seeking to accelerate work surrounding flood defences at the Bridge, which will support not just the development of Leale's Yard but also the Guernsey Housing Association sites in the vicinity. We have agreed that these enabling flood defences will be progressed separately to the housing aspects of the Bridge regeneration work by the Committee for the Environment & Infrastructure, in order that a resolution may be found as quickly as possible, noting that the likely costs fall under my Committee's delegated authority, which currently stands at £5 million.

The Committee is looking to bring proposals to the States as soon as possible regarding Leale's Yard, and is working closely, both with the developer and with an external expert, Arup, to discharge the due diligence requirements so the Assembly can make an informed decision on the potential purchase of homes on the site. And this is a key distinction between this project, where the States would be seeking to purchase homes in a turnkey condition from an external developer, from wider housing projects where the States or the Guernsey Housing Association are directly involved in the build process themselves.

The due diligence process has been designed to acknowledge this distinction. Throughout Arup, work is ongoing to independently assess and refine the construction and project logistics proposals, including the use of modern methods of construction, and this will allow the negotiation of a potential purchase price for the final properties.

However, to reach this stage, we remain reliant on the provision of further information by the developers, which means we cannot confirm the timeframes or details at this stage. *Confirm* the timeframes. We are doing all we can to ensure that this information is available as quickly as possible and have recently written to the developers setting out our detailed requirements, and we expect this information will be received shortly with the view that we will meet again with the developer over the coming weeks.

And finally on the topic of housing, in January, when the States approved the funding necessary for the development of the Les Ozouets campus through P&R's successful amendment to the Government Work Plan, we took a significant step towards being able to release the Coutanchez site.

The Development & Planning Authority is considering its development framework, and we are keen to accelerate the master plan, working along with the other landowners, and we must be ready to clear that site immediately it is available, have approved plans for homes and infrastructure, be confident of the construction capacity to build and have access to funds.

Now, madam, extensive work continues in preparation for our Moneyval mutual evaluation. And while the on-Island element is next month, the preparation has been ongoing for some time across the very many agencies who collectively ensure that, as a jurisdiction, we work to the very highest international standards.

The team effort has been ongoing since our last assessment in 2014, with our AML, CFT, CPF framework enhanced significantly over this time. Guernsey is held to the same standards as any

other jurisdiction and will be judged with the same rigour as jurisdictions, many, many times our size. This has required, and will continue to require, substantial investment and political commitment in order to support the resources, regulatory and legal framework which the international community require of the Bailiwick.

Madam, Guernsey has invested £23 million since 2019, in a mixture of one-off enhancements to our AML, CFT, CPF regime, as well as funding new recurring expenditure to establish the Economic and Financial Crime Bureau to create a new dedicated Economic Crime Division within the Law Offices of the Crown, as well as enhancing the capacity of the Financial Intelligence Unit and the Guernsey Registry.

With the Technical Compliance Assessment in mind, all relevant agencies have been working to ensure that the Bailiwick has the appropriate legislation in place in order to meet the FATF recommendations, and I compliment everyone who has worked so hard in this regard and for the teamwork that they are showing again in this regard.

A significant amount of legislation has been approved by the Assembly, and I am grateful to the Presiding Officer for allowing the publication of an additional Billet for this Meeting, allowing the final regulations to be laid. Engagement has taken place directly with the finance industry in the lead up to the assessment, with the intention of continuing to raise awareness about a range of issues, including the national risk assessment and sanctions.

This is important as expectations and assessments by international bodies have become ever more stringent and consider the whole financial service sectors, as well as the authorities' response to the AML, CFT and CPF. And we are all expecting this to be the case when Moneyval shortly return to inspect us again.

Now madam, having focused on those three topics in detail, I will close by providing a brief overview of wider ongoing work and recent milestones. This includes the recent changes to the Royal Assent process, so that the Lieutenant Governor can approve much of the Guernsey, Alderney and Sark primary legislation here within the Bailiwick. Continued joint working with Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man to increase transparency and accessibility of information held on their Registers of Beneficial Ownership, including the publication of a joint commitment in December and the formal extension of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Not only does this extension highlight Guernsey's commitment to complying with international standards and contributing to global efforts to combat climate change, but it is also important when negotiating Guernsey's participation in international trade agreements, which in turn support our continued economic competitiveness.

Madam, I am grateful for the opportunity to make this Statement and I look forward to answering some questions. But let us bear this in mind for a moment. The sun is shining. My face is smiling. We are all talking and we live and work in the very best place on the planet. Let us see if that can be reflected in the questions that are asked. *(Laughter)* I can assure you, it will certainly be reflected in the answers that are given!

Thank you, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you, Deputy Trott.  
Deputy Mahoney.

**Deputy Mahoney:** Let us see if we can rain on that. I am just joking. *(Laughter)* I am just joking with the biggest smile I can muster, Deputy Trott.

In a previous speech shortly after the P&R vote the President committed to provide the Assembly with the workings behind the £20 million to £30 million extra that Treasury had magicked from between the cushions. I do not recall seeing that yet. So could he confirm when he will be providing those workings to the Assembly?

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

3710 **Deputy Trott:** No, I cannot confirm precisely when, but I can give an undertaking it will be as soon as possible. This is an opportunity for me to personally thank – if I could, I would thank every single member of the Revenue Service – for the incredible effort that they have put in over the last few weeks and months in difficult circumstances, primarily due to a shortage of resources, and it is factors around resources that have delayed the provision of that detail. But it will emerge to the extent that such detail can be presented as soon as practical.

3715

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Kazantseva-Miller.

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Thank you, madam.

3720 The President shared that the investment performance of the unrealised gains was about £26 million or £27 million ahead of the budgetary position. And he said that there was a drag from the restructuring of the portfolio that was undertaken by portfolio managers and SIB. Could he elaborate exactly what that restructure was about and whether this information would be shared with Deputies?

3725 Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

**Deputy Trott:** When a group of investment advisors are changed, as was the case during the last year or so, those investment advisors bring with them a host of different recommendations. And the States' Investment Board considered those recommendations and undertook to undertake some restructuring.

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During those restructuring processes, there is a lag between the time the decision is made and the time that those changes are implemented. And it is that process that has contributed to what some may regard as underperformance. And I will give you an example of why I fall into that category. This is not to in any way, shape or form detract from the excellent work that the States' Investment Board has done. But the Global Stock Index ended the year 2023 up 16.8%, rising nearly 15% from the end of October alone, end of October 2023, to 31st December 2023. And the 2023 performance of that index was dominated by the US market, which was up 18.6%.

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3740 So you can see with numbers of that nature, it is understandable why we may have anticipated better performance than was recorded. But of course, it is unrealised. And I am certainly not in a position to be able to say that that performance will not march ahead during the course of 2024. So the –

3745 **The Deputy Bailiff:** I am sorry, Deputy Trott, you have run out of time.  
Deputy Cameron.

**Deputy Cameron:** Thank you, madam, and I thank the Chief Minister for his update. I have been made aware of reports from concerned Islanders regarding £200 fines issued by Revenue Services for late tax return submissions. Many individuals are adamant that they submitted their returns on time, while others have acknowledged difficulties with the online process. Can the Chief Minister provide assurances that each case will be thoroughly reviewed? Furthermore, can he ensure there is sufficient support available to assist Islanders, particularly the elderly, with their 2023 tax returns?

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3755 Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

**Deputy Trott:** Well, I certainly cannot give an assurance on the second point because, as I have already said in an answer to a previous question, resources at the Revenue Service remain

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challenging. But what I can say is that whilst the Revenue Service has responsibility for operational matters, we do not, as politicians, interfere in the operational matters at the Revenue Service.

I have every confidence in the senior leadership team and know for a fact that they would be horrified if any of our citizens received a fine that was not justified, and I have referred personally several of our citizens to the leadership team in order for them to consider whether or not the fines have been appropriate.

There was a very interesting conversation with a lady, though, who could not understand why she had received a fine because she had, in fact, filled out her form. However, as the conversation developed, she did confess to me that she had forgot to press send and therefore it had not left her system. But that still, in her mind it was unreasonable to levy the fine. It clearly was not. But there are examples like that where I am sure the Revenue Service will look compassionately on when their workload permits.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gabriel.

**Deputy Gabriel:** Thank you, madam.

As we continue to navigate the integration of advanced technical technological tools, it is imperative that we consider both the potential benefits and the challenges they present. With the increasing interest in AI applications such as Microsoft Co-Pilot, I believe it is crucial for us to address several key areas to ensure that any integration aligns with our standards of privacy, efficiency, and ethical governance. And of course, the Electoral Roll debate highlighted on some of that.

So in light of this, could the Committee or the Chief Minister detail the current stance and future plans regarding the deployment of Microsoft Co-pilot across Government, including any areas where its use is actively being considered or implemented?

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

**Deputy Trott:** Now, madam, I want to thank Deputy Gabriel for providing advance notice of this question, because it has enabled me to provide a full response.

As an organisation, it is important that the States of Guernsey takes opportunity to harness technical solutions wherever possible, as a means of improving the delivery of public services. There are many tools out there and it is inevitable that over the years to come, both automation and artificial intelligence will become commonplace across the public sector, as it already is within the private sector.

This must, however, be in line with best practice and we must only adopt appropriately tested technology, ensuring that our data and digital environment remain safe and resilient. Co-Pilot AI is one, I use it myself, of very many applications currently on the market. A review is ongoing of the paid version, which would provide additional functionality, including an interface with the data held within the organisation to assess whether it aligns with our standards of privacy, efficiency and ethical governance and the international standards which our IT services are required to be delivered to. No decisions have been made at this time and until satisfied that the organisation's requirements are met, no service area is currently using AI technology. It will not be long though.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Taylor.

**Deputy Taylor:** Thank you, madam.

Omnibus Investment Holdings have confirmed to the States of Guernsey that they do not have the ability to progress the Leale's Yard development on their own. This is perhaps the reason why, 16 months after the open planning meeting, they have failed to make any application for building control approval.

However, Deputy Trott has advised that private consultants Arup have been appointed to assess and refine – emphasis added on the word refine – technical aspects of that scheme. Can he confirm if taxpayer money is currently being spent to progress the technical aspects of a private scheme?

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**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

**Deputy Trott:** I am not sure what the point of this question is. Arup have been commissioned by the States and Arup are undertaking some consultancy work that is outside the specialisms of our technical team, specifically towards this type of build construction and indeed the various safety requirements associated with it.

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That is sensible due diligence for an organisation that may well end up buying in a turnkey condition significant numbers of the construction on that site. It is entirely legitimate and exactly how I would expect to behave if I was undertaking a project of this type in the private sector.

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**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier.

**Deputy St Pier:** I have not given the President advance notice, but I will ask the question with a smile.

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With the news of costs blowing out on phase two of the Hospital, with I believe significant overspends likely in respect of the Electronic Patient Record project, with unspecified but significant costs spent on Upland Road by Home Affairs from the Seized Asset Fund, as the guardians of the capital programme, will the Committee agree to return to this Assembly in April or May, having undertaken a review of governance, including political governance, of the capital programme to ensure that it is and remains appropriate and to give this Assembly and the community reassurance that there are no other surprises or information being concealed from Members of this Assembly?

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**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

**Deputy Trott:** Madam. it is an important question and I make no comment on the first part of it, the statement part of it, but I will answer the question in this way. The Policy & Resources Committee has welcomed the work of the Head of the Public Service to review existing processes around major capital projects. And we have confidence currently that the Public Service will implement the necessary learning.

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So as a consequence of our knowledge that that independent review has been undertaken independently by the Head of the Public Service and my understanding that it will be undertaken expediently, I will undertake to report back to this Assembly on his behalf, once the details of that work are known.

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**The Deputy Bailiff:** Alderney Representative Snowdon.

**Alderney Representative Snowdon:** Thank you, madam.

Is Policy & Resources still supportive of bringing in a compulsory health care insurance for new arrivals into the Bailiwick?

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Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

**Deputy Trott:** It is a topic that I am unable to confirm if they remain supportive of. My guess is the answer is yes, and the reason I cannot confirm is it is in a very busy agenda, it is not a matter that we have specifically discussed and confirmed, but my expectation is that that would remain favoured.

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**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Matthews.

**Deputy Matthews:** Thank you, madam.

The President mentioned about the reduction in Document Duty revenues that have been received this year, which is unsurprising given that it is one of our most volatile revenue streams. It depends on the volume in the housing market, which can be quite volatile. Does the President agree with me that as a general objective replacing Document Duty, which is an upfront payment that people make when they purchase a home, and a number of economists suggest that this would be a good idea to do as well, to replace this with an annual recurring charge to some extent would not only reduce the volatility in our revenue stream, but also provide a really good benefit for young people looking to buy their first homes and get on the housing ladder and that would be a worthwhile objective to investigate?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

**Deputy Trott:** I do not accept that Document Duty is the reason for the volatility in our housing market. I will come to that, I understand the import of the question. The reason that we have had a miserable year in terms of Document Duty has been because the number of transactions has fallen significantly as a consequence of high interest rates. Now that cycle is about to change and, there is a fair amount of predictions now that those interests rates, UK interest rates will fall quite steadily between now and the end of the year.

The issue about Document Duty for first time buyers is that it is already advantageous for that particular group, and that is why I can be fairly certain that Document Duty is not the reason. The reason is the lack of supply and the cost of borrowing.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Haskins.

**Deputy Haskins:** Thank you, madam.

Much like the previous question from Alderney Representative Snowden regarding the compulsory health insurance, I am going to seek the assurance of the President. This Assembly has requested P&R, and indeed I think I believe it is under Resolution, to explore using captive insurance for the States rather than use some seemingly sometimes very expensive external insurers.

So I ask the President whether he will give assurance to Members that this is still being looked at and undertake to provide a detailed update to Members on the progress of this in conjunction and along with whether the compulsory health insurance is being investigated too?

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

**Deputy Trott:** Again madam, I am grateful to both Deputy Haskins and indeed to Deputy Helyar for a discussion we had earlier. Both of whom reminded me that the Policy & Resources Committee is under an extant Resolution in this regard to investigate the setting up of a captive insurance vehicle on behalf of the States of Guernsey.

I am aware that when some work was undertaken a few years ago, the cost benefit analysis was marginal. And as a consequence of that the decision was taken not to proceed. But clearly things have changed. The insurance market has hardened for a start. So I am able to give him an assurance that we will do precisely as instructed. And my Vice-President has whispered in my ear and told me that work is already underway in that regard. And as soon as that work is complete, we will advise the Assembly accordingly.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Taylor.

**Deputy Taylor:** Thank you, madam. I cannot help but feel that Deputy Trott evaded my last question, so I will rephrase it. Are a state-appointed and state-funded consultancy firm being utilised to refine the technical aspects of the Leale's Yard development?

3920 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

**Deputy Trott:** Well, I am not an expert in these matters, so I am entirely comfortable giving the same answer I gave earlier. A set of consultants that have a set of specialist skills around this type of construction technique, are being used to advise the States to fill a gap in technical knowledge.  
3925 That is entirely appropriate.

However, there are sensitive commercial negotiations ongoing, as you would expect in a contract of this type. My intention is to do all I can to get this project to a position where there are spades in the ground before the end of this term, preferably six months earlier. And as a consequence of that, I will not be playing games of this type in an attempt to somehow or other maybe undermine the developer. The developer will be properly challenged at every level with the assistance of  
3930 appropriately qualified professional consultants.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Oliver.

3935 **Deputy Oliver:** Thank you, madam, and I thank Deputy Trott for his update and also how much housing is on the agenda.

One part of the housing that really could actually help first-time buyers and people in general buying is the bond. It is 5% of the total market value and 3% goes to our lovely friends, solicitors, basically. And we only get 2%. So one thing that I think would really help – we are the only  
3940 jurisdiction that actually has it – is to get rid of it. Does the President agree with me?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

**Deputy Trott:** It would be ill-advised for me to agree with you, Deputy Oliver, through you, madam, on a subject for which I have less knowledge than her. It is, though, something that I shall reflect upon in the days and weeks ahead.  
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**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Queripel.

3950 **Deputy Queripel:** Madam, I was delighted to hear the Chief Minister focus on our need to provide housing ASAP to alleviate the stress and trauma of people who are living, in many cases, in diabolical conditions here in the Island. He focused on two sites, namely Leale's Yard and the Coutanchez, and both of those sites pose considerable development problems.

Whilst a site like Castel Hospital, for example, does not appear to prevent such development  
3955 problems. We have heard a lot of talk in the past about the possibility of building on the Castel site. So with that in mind, is he able, please, to tell us if he and his Committee have actually discussed the possibility of building on the Castel Hospital site?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

3960 **Deputy Trott:** Not to the detail that Deputy Queripel may wish to learn of. It is certainly a matter that has been discussed generically when all property sites have been discussed. But look, the Housing Needs Monitor – I wrote this statistic down earlier, it is one that we have heard others give – we need 721 additional affordable housing units by 2027. There was a net 94 gain last year.

3965 We need to concentrate on the big, high volume sites and get them up and away as soon as possible. Sites like the Castel Hospital site present challenges that are a distraction when we are in

a volume game. In my view, it is about getting 500 houses built as quickly as possible down at Leale's Yard and, if we can, at the Coutanchez site.

3970 They are ideal, or at least they will be when they are enabled, in terms of their proximity to existing high density housing and other facilities. And that is where the majority of our focus should, in my view, remain at least until after the election in June 2025.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** So we have had 20 minutes of questions, but I will extend it for at least another 10 minutes.

3975 Deputy Leadbeater.

**Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, madam.

3980 Does the President agree with me that it would make more sense to concentrate our essential key worker health care housing on the Hospital campus, thus freeing up the sites like the Charroterie, for example, for local house hunters?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

3985 **Deputy Trott:** Well, there are, when you look – and I compliment my predecessors on P&R for their foresight – when you look at sites like the Bray Lodge Hotel, the Charroterie site, which I understand received a planning consent yesterday, and also the site that the Oberlands, if we could get those three sites under development, properly under development, before this Assembly rises, I will take that.

3990 That is not to say that there are not other sites within the environs of the Hospital that can be looked at and developed later, but those sites are in a far riper development position. And that is where we have gone wrong over the years. We have tried to look too far and wide. We have got some fantastic sites. If only we can maintain the momentum to get them going. And I think there is real, genuine resolve within this Assembly for that to happen.

3995 And so I hope that answer is satisfactory, madam, because it is what I believe, and I believe wholeheartedly.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Moakes.

**Deputy Moakes:** Thank you. I sprung to my feet a bit soon then.

4000 The President has referred to affordable housing and the need for it, and I completely agree with him on that point. We should be building hundreds of houses a year. And in fact, as you said, only 94 units of affordable accommodation were built last year. But I go back to the wording that is used on all the way through this debate today: affordable housing.

4005 Now affordable housing effectively is social housing. And it is absolutely critical that we get building that as soon as we possibly can. Does the President agree with me that we should also be doing everything we possibly can to facilitate the building of private accommodation, because there is also a market for that?

Thank you.

4010 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

**Deputy Trott:** Yes, I do, madam, within, of course, the capacity constraints of the construction industry.

4015 This is what makes a debate that we will be having quite shortly around – what is it called,? Not Chapter 11 – GP11! Chapter 11 is when you file for bankruptcy; we will not be having any of that around here! No, GP11 if it is to be believed, if the private developers are to be believed, and I do, they genuinely believe that the absence of that impediment will stimulate significant construction

by them. And I think we should call their bluff on that. We should say, 'Right that is something else out the way; get on with it. Stop promising and deliver.'

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**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** Thank you, madam.

4025 Would the President agree with me that actually the problems that Deputy Moakes alludes to are part of a complex picture that need a multi-pronged approach, and that we are working in a cross-Committee and co-ordinated fashion through the various work streams identified in the Guernsey Housing Plan that does span a number of Committees in order to tackle the very problem? It is certainly not just confined to the affordable housing sector, but actually probably the majority is focused on private sector provision, which is so desperately needed. And would he further agree  
4030 that actually in a personal capacity he has been particularly proactive in pursuing that along with other relevant colleagues?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

4035 **Deputy Trott:** I can confirm that the issues are complex, arguably even more complex than I had anticipated. And yes.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Matthews.

4040 **Deputy Matthews:** Thank you.

I fear Deputy Trott may have got my previous question the wrong way around, because I was not suggesting that Document Duty caused volatility in the housing market, but rather that the volatility that is inherent really in the volumes in the housing market causes States' revenue to be volatile. So it goes up and down in an unpredictable way, as the housing market volumes really go  
4045 up and down in a way that other revenue streams that the States have, like Income Tax receipts and TRP are not so variable. And that for that reason Document Duty is often not considered a very good or reliable sort of revenue stream and other revenue streams are preferable to Document Duty which causes other issues. So a high level of Document Duty is a barrier for entry for people looking to enter the housing market.

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**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott. That was a question, by the way. I know you were stood up for the speech. There was a question in there.

4055 **Deputy Trott:** Indeed. Yes. Is volatility always a bad thing? Well, I can tell you that over the last decade, with the exception of the COVID period and last year, Document Duty has traditionally outperformed expectations. In other words, there has been more sales of properties within the existing housing stock than had been originally expected at Budget time. But I am going to agree with Deputy Matthews again for expediency, madam, because I fear if I do not, he will ask me the same question a third time in a few moments' time. *(Laughter)*

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**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Mahoney.

**Deputy Mahoney:** Thank you, madam. Just very brief. I know we are running out of time.

4065 The cost savings subcommittee had pretty much had all of its findings available come December just gone. But we obviously have not seen those yet. So can the President please confirm that those collated suggestions have now gone out to the individual Committees for their comments about what can and cannot be done, what is and is not achievable? If they have, what deadline have those Committees been given to come back to P&R and when will we then in the Assembly see something that we can then have a look at?

4070 Thanks.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

4075 **Deputy Trott:** Well, I am advised madam, that we have gone way past that stage and that there will be correspondence with Committees in the weeks ahead. One of the things that struck me, though, when I looked at the work of the cost committee was one particular statistic, which I am surprised we have not communicated more widely to our community and that was of the letters that we received from our community, something like more than 80% actually addressed tax raising measures rather than cost saving actions, which I think tells me quite strongly that the community are not stupid.

4080 They understand absolutely that we are currently not taking enough of our economic output by way of tax. It is unsustainable and taxes will need to rise. The issue is how are those taxes going to be raised?

4085 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Brouard and then Deputy Ferbrache, then Alderney Representative Roberts. And then we will call it a day.

4090 **Deputy Brouard:** It is just something I have been chasing up for a while, madam. The personal injury discount rate, which there was a consultation done by P&R back in April 2022. Would the President kindly just have a look to see if this could be moved on? Because it may make some substantial savings with regard to medical insurance, etc., and help our funding.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

4095 **Deputy Trott:** Now, I am aware that this is an issue that has been an important matter for Deputy Brouard for some time. There is ongoing consultation on this matter in order that we can arrive at a discount rate that is appropriate and reasonable with all the contributors' inputs having been analysed and determined.

4100 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

4105 **Deputy Ferbrache:** Taking note of the warm words of Deputy Trott when he started his presentation about we should be smiling, so I am smiling, I live in Guernsey, there is no better place, I am listening to Deputy Trott. Well it cannot all be positive! (*Laughter*) I am thinking about money, which I know most Deputy Trott and I think about a lot. So in relation to that, the point that he has alluded to about we do need more income, we need more tax, is his Committee going to bring back a mini budget or some proposals before the actual Budget date much later in the year? And, if so, when, and if so, is there any idea of what those proposals may be?

4110 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

4115 **Deputy Trott:** The answer to the third question is no. The answer to the second question is it will be at the traditional time in October. But I am unable at this stage to tell you whether those proposals will in fact be substantive.

4120 There are fervent discussions around the Policy & Resources table as to how best to plug this gap. But of course, the issue is not exclusively one for P&R. Why do I say that? Well, I used something around the table the other day in word pictures, I said, if you look at what the historical and current deficit is looking backwards. It happens to be about 2% on the basic rate of personal Income Tax for the historical deficit but looking forward to the issues around long-term care, that is about 2%, if that is the source that is used in terms of the Social Security contributions.

Clearly that would not be acceptable. But in any event, proposals of that type need to be co-ordinated, across Committee working in a way that produces a set of proposals that cause the least economic impact and produce the most immediate and sustainable long-term effects.

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**The Deputy Bailiff:** Alderney Representative Roberts.

**Alderney Representative Roberts:** Thank you, madam. I thank the Chief Minister for giving me the opportunity for this short question.

4130

Would the Chief Minister please give assurance to Alderney that every consideration will be made to protect its fragile economy and indeed, along with the whole Bailiwick consider this in tandem, as we are true fiscal friends, colleagues and partners?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

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**Deputy Trott:** So I think, madam, it would be fair to say that there are few in this Assembly that understand the fragile fiscal position of Alderney better than I. It is something that I have spoken about on numerous occasions. And so I am able to give him a reassurance but also at the same time, remind him that the amount of resources that we now have as a collective community is lower than it has been in recent history.

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So expectations need to be managed, and they need to be managed carefully. And we all have a responsibility, regardless of which Island we reside in, to make sure that our wider community understands those fiscal realities and manages those expectations accordingly.

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**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you, Deputy Trott.  
States' Greffier, the next item on the Order Paper, please.

## REQUÊTE

### 4. Waste Disposal – Motion withdrawn

*Article 4.*

*The States are asked to decide:-*

*Whether, after consideration of the Requête entitled "Waste Disposal" dated January 5, 2024, they are of the opinion:*

*1. To agree that -*

*(a) waste collected from dwelling houses, lodging houses or business premises further to arrangements made by, or with the agreement of, a Douzaine of a Parish under the Parochial Collection of Waste (Guernsey) Law, 2015 ("the 2015 Law") shall be transferred to any site, specified for the purpose by that Douzaine, and*

*(b) the Waste Disposal Authority shall no longer have power to specify such sites under the 2015 Law.*

*2. To direct the States' Trading Supervisory Board to explore opportunities for processing waste locally and not to enter into any contract for waste disposal on terms, including minimum tonnage, that would preclude or inhibit the possible development of local disposal arrangements.*

*3. To direct the preparation of such legislation as may be necessary to give effect to their above decisions*

**The States' Greffier:** Article 4, Requête – waste disposal.

4150 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Yes, Deputy Dyke, you have put in a motion to withdraw your Requête.

**Deputy Dyke:** Yes, madam.

We, the requérants, have decided that under the circumstances, it would be best to withdraw the Requête. There are various reasons for this. One is a minor reason. There is a drafting point that we would need to correct by amendment. We have also received some very long letters from E&I and STSB quite late last week, in terms of their comments, which we have not had time to digest fully, and I am sure they are not totally full of red herrings. So we should do that.

4160 And I have had conversations with other Deputies who have considered that they have some better ideas for structuring the whole thing. So in terms of good governance, I do not want or we do not wish to waste the Assembly's time with this particular Requête. We would like to go and have more conversations and possibly bring back something very different from this. Hence, we would like to withdraw the Requête.

4165 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen, do you formally second the motion to withdraw?

**Deputy Vermeulen:** I do, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Do you wish to speak now or later, or at all?

4170 **Deputy Vermeulen:** No, I think it is a very straightforward suggestion just to withdraw it at the moment.  
Thank you.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Roffey.

4175 **Deputy Roffey:** Thank you, madam.

On balance, I would urge the States not to accept this motion and I will explain why. If it were simply the requérants saying, actually, 'No, we have changed our mind, we do not want to do this any more so we want to withdraw it,' of course you would give them permission to withdraw. It would be perverse to do anything else.

4180 But what they are really saying is they do not think they have really got the structure right or the wording right. So, having put it into the public arena, having created an enormous amount of work, they want to withdraw it, to bring it back in a different form in a few months' time.

I think that that is problematic for two reasons. The first relates to my own Committee. We have a tiny executive inside my Committee, and a disproportionate amount of time has already been taken up dealing with the extraordinary fallout from what was an absolutely textbook procurement system run in conjunction with the States' Procurement Office in the centre at P&R and demonstratively fair and objective.

4190 Despite all of that, and I accept it, it goes with the territory, we have had to spend hours and hours responding to this particular issue. Fine. I thought it was going to come to a head today. Either it was going to be successful and we would have to live with it. I do not know quite how we would but we would adapt to it somehow. Well, I am not sure we could, but anyway, that would have been a direction of the States.

4195 Or it would have been dealt with and the Requête would have been dismissed, and my very small team could get on with some of the other crucial work that they have to do. So, from the STSB's point of view, I would prefer that this comes to a head at this States' Meeting.

4200 But, secondly, there is a governance issue. Where are we going if seven Members in future throw in a requête, see what comes back, see what the comments are from the relevant Committees, and then go away and say, well, I am not sure we have worded it in the absolutely optimum way to actually get a successful outcome, so we will take it away, remould it, talk to the Douzaines, who do

not seem to want to talk to anybody, well that is what was said in an email to us. I think we are going to be making a rod for our own backs here. So I really urge Members to reject this motion.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** I tend to agree with Deputy Roffey, but for somewhat different reasons.

I have communicated with Deputy Dyke on a number of occasions, and he seems to think our very well-crafted amendments are wrecking amendments. Myself and Deputy Prow, along with one of the officers, have done everything to help his badly worded, badly drafted and badly written Requête.

There is an opportunity here to put this to bed today and I do somewhat reject – it may play well on Facebook – but when a Deputy, under cover, I suppose, of absolute privilege, says that there are effectively red herrings within the reasonable letters from both Committees, I think we are heading to somewhat dangerous territory, and I would rather this was had today. I really would rather this was had out today.

Because we have had a letter from the head of the service on other rumours that have been spoken about coming maybe not necessarily from the requérants, but certainly other people around the development of this Requête and this should be had today. There are many things I do not like about Deputy Roffey, but he is no crook. And this has been –

**Deputy Dyke:** Well, I am not sure if this is a point of correction. I had not accused him of being a crook.

**Deputy Inder:** I did not say you had. I have heard accusations of officers that are corrupt. I have heard words. I have heard accusations of independent companies are somehow up to something. Time and time again. And I would really like to have this out today.

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Point of order.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** What is your point of order, Deputy Kazantseva-Miller?

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** I think we are straying beyond the motion –

**The Deputy Bailiff:** I am going to disagree with you. I think this is the reasons why Deputy Inder is asking his colleagues not to allow the withdrawal of the Requête. But nevertheless, I would suggest that Deputy Inder needs to think advisedly about what he's saying in relation to –

**Deputy Inder:** Okay.

But I have mentioned a number of reasons. And one other conversation with Deputy Dyke. This job is actually about work. You have actually got to sit down and do the work properly. And as someone who is, I think it is, a draftsman or a legislation draftsman, he has said that there are some drafting errors. Well, Deputy Dyke needs to sit down and do the work properly and not assume there is a massive conspiracy against the seven requérants.

He cannot say he does not believe that because he said that to me. Today is the day to deal with this Requête. And if you need any more convincing, Members, there was an interview on the radio, I think it was Deputy Vermeulen was on and he said, and I am going to slightly misquote him, he really likes requêtes. He thinks they are an effective way of getting business done. Well, do not chicken out –

**Deputy Vermeulen:** Point of correction, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** What is your point of correction please, Deputy Vermeulen?

**Deputy Vermeulen:** Point of correction. That is not accurate in any shape or form. What I said was, following the success of the Requête on the Herm School that had opened a lot of eyes amongst the Deputies to getting things actually done within the States. It is completely different to what is being presented here.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you, Deputy Vermeulen.

**Deputy Inder:** Via a requête. I will accept that. But I would encourage Deputy Dyke and Deputy Vermeulen not to chicken out. Lay the Requête today. I have done the work, Deputy Prow has done the work. We have gone through the proper process. We submitted our work to STSB. We submitted our work to the Law Officers. Our amendment is sound and it is solid and actually gets him to the point where he wanted it to do when he started this Requête.

So I would encourage people to vote against this completely. And let us have the conversation today and let us get this over and done with.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Kazantseva-Miller.

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Madam, I am really concerned about the perverse logic I believe is currently being displayed.

A requête is a parliamentary tool for Members of this parliament to get together and to draft certain Propositions for debate of the Assembly. So we have seven members of parliament have put together a motion. I do not think it has been well drafted, but it is their right to bring something forward.

It is also absolutely their democratic parliamentary right, if they feel it has not been drafted well, or maybe whatever has happened since they have published, to take it back. And I do feel they are doing absolutely the right thing to pull it down. And I really feel it is some perverse logic from Deputy Roffey to try to force a debate today which the requérants do not want to have, because the debate will have to be on the words of the Requête, not on general principles, not on trying to bring dirty laundry from something else, but on the words of the Requête.

And if we deviate from the words of the Requête, we will be deviating away from the order, from the parliamentary Rules. So we could not be just airing the dirty laundry that some of us have done. And just because it might be debated and defeated –

**Deputy Roffey:** Point of correction.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Yes, Deputy Roffey.

**Deputy Roffey:** My understanding of the parliamentary Rules, when any motion is laid – not secondary motions, secondary motions are different, you can redraw an amendment – but a policy letter and a requête is a primary motion in exactly the same way as a policy letter. Once it is laid and republished on the website, it is a decision of this Assembly whether or not it is withdrawn. It is not in any way going against the Rules for us to say, no, that cannot be withdrawn.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** What I can confirm is the reason why we are having this debate is because it does require a vote to allow Deputies Dyke and Vermeulen's motion to withdraw to happen. So that is a fair point.

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** I am sure there was a point of correction because that is not what I was saying. I was not saying that this Assembly cannot debate or approve this motion. That is exactly not what I was saying.

Just because it might be debated and defeated does not mean those same requérants or someone else cannot bring something else forward. In fact, if you make them feel this way today

4305 because you do not want to support their motion to annul, it will make them even more determined to do something different because they are going to feel done too. So I really think we should be grown up with this motion and really support the requérants. Whether that means something else will happen in the future, we simply do not know, but I do really urge Members to be grown up about it and support this motion.

4310

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Okay, Deputy Trott.

**Deputy Trott:** Thank you, madam. I do not understand the logic either, but one thing I know for certain is that two wrongs do not make a right.

4315 Of course, the States should accept the requérants' wishes to withdraw this Requête in exactly the same way we would show the same courtesy to five Members of a Department who had brought forward a States' report which may or may not have been at the time of debate as they would wish it.

4320 But importantly, nothing will be gained from a debate this week, apart from a lot of bad feeling at the end of it, when some things may be said that cannot then be unsaid. There has been some challenging language outside of this Assembly, madam, where some people involved with this process have said some things that I do not think they wanted to articulate in quite the way that they did. And the sooner that is remedied, the better. But no good will come of having a phantom debate, which will, I am sure, get the headline in tomorrow's newswires of certain Members wanting to behave like Shylock. It is nonsense. Let us move on swiftly.

4325

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Mahoney.

**Deputy Mahoney:** Thank you, madam.

4330 Yes, to reiterate, really, what Deputy Kazantseva-Miller has just said, this Assembly seems to love a requête, especially more and more recently. And if there is one guaranteed way to have another requête, it is to force this one to happen today. Because I can guarantee to you seven people will get together and go, let us do it again, and now we have got a new version of the wording we do like in it. I am undecided about whether I am going to support the Requête in the first place, but we are guaranteed to see a follow up requête if we force this issue today.

4335

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

4340 **Deputy Ferbrache:** I disagree completely with Deputy Mahoney and I disagree with Deputy Kazantseva-Miller because, as Deputy Roffey has said, bringing a requête is akin to bringing a policy letter. Before you bring a policy letter, if any Committee were to bring a policy letter before the States without having thoroughly researched it, spoken to all relevant parties, approached those who might have more knowledge and a different view, they would be castigated as being irresponsible.

4345 Now what we have got by way of the Requête is a pretty thin document, which says almost nothing and does not give any real reasoning at all of any substance. Now Deputy Mahoney says, oh, if they are provoked, they will come back again and they will do something better. Well, if they could do something better that is sensible and that has merit to it, after having researched everything, that is fine. That is part of the democratic process.

4350 But being a democrat, and I hear so many people say, I have got the democratic right to do this, I have got the democratic right to do that. What you have also got as a Member of this Assembly, and indeed as a citizen of Guernsey, is a right to be responsible. You have a duty to act proportionately. You have the right to do things that are well researched.

4355 Because bellicose comments, and Deputy Trott has referred to unfortunate comments outside the States, I do not know if I have heard the same ones, but I have certainly heard ones, they are coming from people who support, I am not necessarily saying the Deputies, but they are coming

from people who support the Requête. They are the ones; I have not heard any officers say anything that is provocative. I have not heard any politicians, Deputy Roffey, Deputy Inder or anybody else say anything that is irresponsible or provocative.

4360 And Deputy Dyke's application, motion to withdraw, was graceless. He could have got up and said, look, we got it wrong. The drafting was very poor. We have made a Horlicks. We should have gone out and spoken to STSB and all the other parties. And certainly the Douzaines. The Douzaines, I think, would have liked to have been contacted in greater detail. Before we rush to the starting post. We should have done that.

4365 He said we recently received a letter from STSB, or whoever it may be, which could have red herrings in it or words to that effect. We all remember the words that he said. Well, hang on, he should have researched that before he made that comment. He is a very intelligent man, and he is a lawyer of some experience who must have read thousands of pages of corporate documents and other things in his long and successful legal career. And he would have been able to assimilate the  
4370 information that comes through very quickly. He would have been able to decide whether it was valid or not.

So to accuse or at least use his words, red herring – they were his words; he used them – is unacceptable.

Now, I think the States should be putting down a marker to say that resources – and we hear  
4375 resources mentioned just about every debate, just about every letter, just about every conversation about the lack of resources – because there are and the biggest lack of resource we have got is people. We have not got enough people, senior officers and officers, to be able to do the jobs that we ask them properly. We are asking too much of too few.

And here there would have been two amendments laid, or they will be if the motion to withdraw  
4380 is unsuccessful, by senior politicians who have had to put a lot of work in and research it. Now they did not know until – I should have known, I should have read my emails last night – but I was walking out at lunchtime with Deputy Leadbeater he told me that this was on. I did not know, I missed it and I have read it over the lunch period. But that is not satisfactory.

I appreciate you got it late yesterday. It is not satisfactory for everybody to prepare for a Requête  
4385 and for all of a sudden, the requérants to run for the hills. Because that is what they are doing. They are running for the hills. They are chicken. They have lost confidence in what they are doing. If they had confidence in it, full sail – I am mixing my metaphors – they would go full sail ahead and say, let us decide.

Because drafting slips, they may in a courtroom, drafting slips can often be pounced upon and  
4390 cause cases to win or lose. But in this States' Assembly, in the now 14 years I have been a Member of the States' Assembly in two lots of periods of time, things have not failed on a drafting slip. The States get around that. They amend it. They listen to common sense.

So if Deputy Dyke had wanted to amend his Requête in some way, I doubt that any of us would  
4395 have really opposed it because we want to get to the issues. They have realised they are on a loser. It has been done in the most graceless of ways. Deputy Dyke should have been human being enough – because I do not want to be sexist; he should have been human being enough – to stand up and say, we have got it wrong, *mea culpa*, can we please withdraw?

If they had said that, I would be like Deputy Mahoney. I would be voting in favour of it. I am  
4400 sorry, I am not like Deputy Mahoney today. I often am like Deputy Mahoney and I do like Deputy Mahoney. I am not going to give way, he can sit down. He is a young man. He can get up again. He is a referee of the rugby thing, but not here.

But in relation to where we are, if Deputy Dyke because he has the right to respond, I think  
(The Deputy Bailiff: Yes, he does.) if he can say at the end, 'Look, I have really made a big mistake. I misled some of the requérants,' because I do not think Deputy Trott would have signed the  
4405 Requête unless he was fully appraised of the circumstances. But we have got two Members of P&R that have signed this Requête; sensible, senior people.

Now I wonder how much consultation, I do not want anybody to jump up because we have had enough jumping up, they have had with Deputy Dyke, who I think has led the Requête, certainly he

4410 is the lead requérant on the papers, before deciding to withdraw. It is a real mess. Deputy Dyke I hope he is graceful and not graceless when he responds to this debate.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier.

4415 **Deputy St Pier:** Madam, I will move 26(1).

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier has asked us to consider a 26(1) guillotine motion. Those who wish to speak, can you stand in your place? Do you wish to proceed?

4420 **Deputy St Pier:** Yes, thank you, madam.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** On your screens is a motion for the current debate to be guillotined. *(Interjections)* States' Greffier, are you setting up a vote for the guillotine? Hold your horses. Hang on, we are just going to reboot the technology.

4425 **Deputy Gabriel:** Madam, excuse me for interrupting. Have you asked Greffier to open the vote? Because I cannot see that.

**The Deputy Bailiff:** He is having a problem actually getting the voting ready for voting, Deputy Gabriel. But as soon as he is ready I will give the sign.

4430 **Deputy Taylor:** Madam, was a recorded vote requested?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** I understood it being requested, but if we wanted to do it *aux voix*, we can do it.

4435 **Deputy Taylor:** Could it not be done *aux voix*?

**The Deputy Bailiff:** It is so much cleaner if it is a guillotine vote. Would you kindly open the voting, please?

4440 *There was a recorded vote.*

*Carried – Pour 25, Contre 13, Ne vote pas 2, Did not vote 0, absent 0*

POUR	CONTRE	NE VOTE PAS	DID NOT VOTE	ABSENT
Aldwell, Sue	Blin, Chris	Roberts, Steve	None	None
Burford, Yvonne	Brouard, Al	Snowdon, Alexander		
Bury, Tina	De Sausmarez, Lindsay			
Cameron, Andy	Fairclough, Simon			
De Lisle, David	Gabriel, Adrian			
Dudley-Owen, Andrea	Gollop, John			
Dyke, John	Inder, Neil			
Falla, Steve	Matthews, Aidan			
Ferbrache, Peter	Moakes, Nick			
Haskins, Sam	Oliver, Victoria			
Helyar, Mark	Prow, Robert			
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha	Queripel, Lester			
Le Tissier, Chris	Roffey, Peter			
Le Tocq, Jonathan				
Leadbeater, Marc				
Mahoney, David				
McKenna, Liam				
Meerveld, Carl				
Murray, Bob				

Parkinson, Charles  
Soulsby, Heidi  
St Pier, Gavin  
Taylor, Andrew  
Trott, Lyndon  
Vermeulen, Simon

**The Deputy Bailiff:** In relation to the motion to guillotine the debate, there voted Pour, 25; against, 13; and there were 2 abstentions. Therefore, I declare that the debate is guillotined.

So I will therefore ask Deputy Dyke to reply.

4445

**Deputy Dyke:** Thank you, madam.

Well, Hell's teeth; this was a nice day. I never expected such vitriol over a motion to withdraw. It is exceptional. I obviously, I thank Deputy Inder and Deputy Ferbrache for their extremely gracious speeches, (*Laughter*) which I am sure we have all enjoyed, but honestly! What have I been called today? Graceless, chicken. Incompetent draftsman. I mean, honestly!

4450

**The Deputy Bailiff:** I do not think you were called incompetent! (*Laughter.*)

**Deputy Dyke:** I do not know how much background I should give on this. In the drafting of the Requête there was a phrase used which was then used to misconstrue what the entire Requête meant, which had the effect of terrorising the parishes into thinking it meant something, that it did not. Some parishes who we had spoken to earlier on were actually quite keen. Then we had a whole bunch of misrepresentations about the Requête. Accordingly, I do actually have an amendment drafted to fix that.

4455

But there are other points. And as I said, other Deputies have suggested that a fundamentally different approach might be more effective. I, hopefully graciously, have agreed with them and then accordingly have decided to withdraw the motion along with the other requérants. That was what we decided to do.

4460

So in terms of good governance, having got something not perfectly correct and had input from other Deputies on better ways of doing things, I think withdrawing the Requête is perfectly sensible. Deputy Roffey seems to want to impose some sort of punishment beating on me. I despair. My suggestion, respectfully and hopefully gracefully to the Deputies is that it would be good governance to withdraw the motion and to vote to allow the motion to withdraw, to pass through, to avoid wasting our time. We have got other things to do. And I am sorry that we have wasted this much time.

4465

Thank you.

4470

**The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you, Deputy Dyke.

4475

*There was a recorded vote.*

*Carried – Pour 26, Contre 13, Ne vote pas 4, Did not vote 0, absent 0*

**POUR**

Blin, Chris  
Brouard, Al  
Burford, Yvonne  
Cameron, Andy  
De Lisle, David  
Dudley-Owen, Andrea  
Dyke, John  
Falla, Steve  
Gollop, John

**CONTRE**

Aldwell, Sue  
Fairclough, Simon  
Ferbrache, Peter  
Gabriel, Adrian  
Inder, Neil  
Moakes, Nick  
Murray, Bob  
Prow, Robert  
Queripel, Lester

**NE VOTE PAS**

Bury, Tina  
De Sausmarez, Lindsay  
Roberts, Steve  
Snowdon, Alexander

**DID NOT VOTE**

None

**ABSENT**

None

Haskins, Sam  
Helyar, Mark  
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha  
Le Tissier, Chris  
Le Tocq, Jonathan  
Leadbeater, Marc  
Mahoney, David  
Matthews, Aidan  
McKenna, Liam  
Meerveld, Carl  
Oliver, Victoria  
Parkinson, Charles  
Soulsby, Heidi  
St Pier, Gavin  
Taylor, Andrew  
Trott, Lyndon  
Vermeulen, Simon

Roffey, Peter

**The Deputy Bailiff:** There voted 26, Pour; Contre, 10; and there were 4 abstentions. I therefore announce that the Proposition has been passed and the Requête is withdrawn.

And so, with perhaps perfect timing, we will adjourn now until tomorrow morning at 9.30, when we will start off with the requête on the mooring fees.

4480 Before we get there, can I remind everybody about the obligations you all have to declare interests in relation to this. This is a matter where a number of you may have interests. So please remind yourself of your obligations there under.

States' Greffier. Shall we close the Meeting?

*The Assembly adjourned at 5.28 p.m.*