



**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**STATES OF DELIBERATION**

**OF THE**

**ISLAND OF GUERNSEY**

**HANSARD**

**Royal Court House, Guernsey, Friday, 4th July 2025**

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**Present:**

**Sir R. J. McMahon, Esq., Bailiff and Presiding Officer**

**Law Officers**

R. M. Titterington, K.C. (H.M. Comptroller)

**People's Deputies**

C. P. A Blin	M. P. Leadbeater
Y. Burford	J. P. Le Tocq
T. L. Bury	M. Malik
A. K. Cameron	A. D. S. Matthews
H. L. Camp	L. J. McKenna
G. M. Collins	P. S. N. Montague
R. P. Curgenvin	A. J. Niles
H. L. de Sausmarez	G. A. Oswald
D. F. Dorrity	J. M. Ozanne
S. J. Falla	C. N. K. Parkinson
A. Gabriel	S. R. Rochester
J. A. B. Gollop	T. M. Rylatt
L. T. Goy	A. S. Sloan
S. T. Hansmann Rouxel	G. A. St Pier
M. A. J. Helyar	J. D. Strachan
N. R. Inder	L. C. Van Katwyk
B. R. Kay-Mouat	S. P. J. Vermeulen
A. Kazantseva-Miller	S. Williams
M. S. Laine	

**Representatives of the Island of Alderney**

Alderney Representatives E. Hill and E. A. J. Snowdon

**The Clerk to the States of Deliberation**

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

**Absent at the Evocation**

Deputy R. M. Humphreys (*absent de l'Île*)

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# States of Deliberation

*The States met at 9.30 a.m.*

[THE BAILIFF *in the Chair*]

## PRAYERS

*The States' Greffier*

## EVOCATION

## CONVOCATION

**The States' Greffier:** Billet d'État XIII of 2025. 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 Court House on Friday, 4th July 2025 at 9.30 a.m. to consider the items submitted for debate – Article 1, the Election of the President of the Committee for Economic Development.

# Billet d'État XIII

## I. Committee for Economic Development – Election of President commenced

*Article 1.*

*The States are asked:*

*To elect a sitting Member of the States as President of the Committee for Economic Development to serve until 30th June 2029 in accordance with Rule 16 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation as set out in Section 1 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees.*

**The Bailiff:** Good morning, Members of the States. Do we have any nominations for the Office of President of the Committee for Economic Development?

Deputy de Sausmarez.

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

I, on behalf of the Policy & Resources Committee, would like to propose Deputy Sasha Kazantseva-Miller.

**The Bailiff:** Is that nomination seconded?

**Deputy St Pier:** I will second that.

20 **The Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier, thank you.  
Are there any other nominations?

**Deputy Gollop:** Yes, sir. I would like to propose Deputy Christopher Blin for the Presidency of  
Economic Development.

25 **The Bailiff:** Okay. Is that nomination seconded?

**Deputy Gabriel:** Yes, sir, I am seconding that.

30 **The Bailiff:** Do you want to arm-wrestle as to who is going to second on this basis? Shall we say  
Deputy Gabriel?

Anyone else? So on the basis that we have two candidates for a contested election, what I am  
going to do is I am going to invite Deputy Kazantseva-Miller and Deputy Blin to come up to the  
bench so that when it comes to questions in particular we can work out what is going on.  
35 Deputy Kazantseva-Miller on the window side, Deputy Blin on the door side.

I will remind Members that once the proposer of the two candidates has spoken, there will then  
be an opportunity for the candidate to speak for not more than – so the proposer is five minutes,  
the candidate 10 minutes, and then there will be a period of up to 30 minutes of questions. On this  
occasion I am not going to ask you to do anything other than stand in your place, and I will try and  
40 pick as fairly as I can those who will be able to ask questions to the two candidates and we will  
rotate who answers first, just as you had on Tuesday morning.

So I will invite Deputy de Sausmarez, who is proposing Deputy Kazantseva-Miller, to speak to  
her candidature, please.

Deputy de Sausmarez.

45 **Deputy de Sausmarez:** Thank you, sir.

I am very pleased to propose Deputy Kazantseva-Miller for the role of President for the  
Committee for Economic Development. As one of its hardest working members of the term that has  
just come to an end, she is very familiar indeed with the Committee's mandate and very well-placed  
50 to hit the ground running. Having spoken with her at length, I can assure Members that she is  
absolutely brimming with ideas on how to take it forward, and I am sure she will elaborate on that  
when she speaks.

Deputy Kazantseva-Miller has worked at a number of major international brands, including  
Google, L'Oreal, and Agoda. After moving to Guernsey in 2012, she helped launch the Digital  
Greenhouse and Startup Guernsey. She has been actively involved with multiple businesses and  
55 startups as an investor, a consultant, and a non-executive director. She co-founded the Guernsey-  
based investment and advisory company and later ran a business and marketing network that she  
sold in 2020. Through these ventures, she has personally supported dozens of local businesses and  
collaborated with more than 1,000 local households.

60 She was an adviser on the Board of Guernsey Ports and is a non-exec director for Esports Fund.  
She is a member of the Citywealth Crypto Editorial Board and co-founder of the Chamber of  
Commerce Sustainable Business Initiative, as it happens with someone I am closely related to.

Deputy Kazantseva Miller holds an MBA from INSEAD and a Bachelor of Science from the London  
School of Economics. She is multilingual and has lived and worked in Singapore, Bangkok, London,  
65 Moscow, Madrid, Guernsey and Ulaanbaatar.

Since entering politics in 2020, Deputy Kazantseva-Miller has been very involved in a range of  
initiatives, including on tax, digital frameworks, skills and innovation. She is well-known and  
well-connected within industry.

70 Over the course of the previous term, the Committee for Economic Development pivoted from  
a reactive position to look far more towards the strategic. They established several key building

blocks to prepare the Island for our future economy, including the universal fibre rollout, the 5G Policy approval, the Digital Framework and the Skills Strategy, as well as the Innovation Plan.

Deputy Kazantseva-Miller has been closely involved with the Guernsey Enterprise Investment Scheme, and the Committee *for* Economic Development's work on the Digital Framework, the Innovation Plan and the Skills Strategy – I know these are things that are very dear to her heart – as well as the childcare sector review. These are all good examples of cross-Government initiatives which touch on a number of different points within Government and within the community and within industry. They are all about looking at putting Guernsey's economy in the best possible place to go into a future age.

Deputy Kazantseva-Miller's qualifications are, I think, very self-evident. She is perhaps uniquely suited to continue guiding that Committee in its mandate, working collaboratively with industry, across Government and between Committees as well. It is an important brief and I do ask the Assembly to please support Deputy Kazantseva-Miller.

Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** I will now invite Deputy Kazantseva-Miller to speak for up to 10 minutes. Deputy Kazantseva-Miller, please.

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Sir, first of all, I would like to thank Deputy Blin for prompting a contested election because it gives us a chance to set out our vision for economic development and be scrutinised through questions.

The economy has been a top priority in this election and rightly so, but the economy does not sit solely within the Committee *for* Economic Development. It is shared across Government, it is shaped by industry, community and global trends. Let us also be clear, growth is not enough. If inflation rises at the same rate, then the net effect is zero and real wages and company profits stay put. Real growth comes from doing more and better with less across the whole economy. That is how we raise household incomes, boost company profits and improve prosperity across all households. But we must also do that without compromising our well-being, quality of life, and environment.

The foundations for economic growth and productivity are: investment in capital and infrastructure, and that includes housing, connectivity, ports, airports, our roads, and so on; skills and lifelong learning, so our people can thrive and adopt at every stage of life; adopting innovation and technologies, doing things better, faster, and more sustainably. Business confidence is also important, backed by stable Government policy and a fiscal policy outlook, proportionate regulation, and fair competition. Our air, sea, and digital connectivity within the Bailiwick, with the UK, Europe, and the world is also crucial.

Within our existing Committee mandate, there are areas we need to double down on. Financial and professional services are our largest sectors, accounting for nearly 50% of the GVA. We will develop a new finance sector strategy, embracing fintech, open finance, digital assets, and diversification. We will work with the Policy & Resources Committee to launch a risk appetite statement, and work with the regulator to ensure we are open for new markets, including crypto.

Digital AI and innovation; we all know that AI is transforming economies and this will also affect our tax collection and policy. Guernsey must be more prepared. We will build on the digital economy study to create a new digital and AI framework. Within that digital ID linked to the MyGov account is a foundational step on that journey and is part of our internal Digital Strategy. The Innovate Board, which I helped launch, will lead on the Innovation Plan and the Digital Greenhouse review.

Let us not forget tourism, which is our second largest export sector and also key for helping sustain our sea and air links, as well as the hospitality industries. I support evolving the Tourism Management Board and introducing a visitor levy with part of the funds ring-fenced for investment into tourism development.



With retail, I will be supporting the Guernsey Retail Group in delivering a new strategy that reflects the changing consumer habits locally. But let us not forget about the real economy. Our Economic Strategy will not be just about high-value, low-footprint jobs. We must champion and support the backbone of our economy, the plumbers, the hairdressers, the waiters and the kitchen porters, because they keep Guernsey running. Let us also not forget about the construction and trade sector, which are facing skill shortages. We need more apprenticeship pathways locally and potentially looking to foster more partnerships with external contractors too.

As I said before, economic development requires joint delivery across Governments. With that in mind, I will prioritise collaboration with the States' Trading and Supervisory Board to progress critical infrastructure like the commercial harbours and ports. On air connectivity, we desperately need more resilience. I support the introduction of a Heathrow route and lower fares. This means rethinking airport charges, progressing the Airport Master Plan, and looking into the airport subsidy. I will continue exploring setting up a special economic zone at the Airport, which, if GST were to be introduced, could remain a GST-free zone. I support Deputy Helyar's candidacy for the role proposed by P&R because I think we can work very well together to progress Economic Development's agenda through our trading bodies.

Our marine industry, we must resolve the decision about the location of our future harbour to unlock the much-needed investment in the ports and allow the Guernsey Development Agency's plans to take off. The marine economy could be a significant new growth area for us.

The Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture is really important. We will work to establish a joint skills agency, build on the Human Capital Framework developed last term. I also support action on the Early Years' Strategy and strengthening the childcare sector. This directly impacts families and their ability to get childcare they need and their ability to work.

With Home Affairs there are important areas of delivery of the digital and AI framework on cybersecurity, data protection, telecom security. Review of the Population Policy is also going to be needed but needs careful consideration because our economy is hungry for jobs. Collaboration with the Policy & Resources Committee will be paramount around our fiscal policy, tax incentives, share taxation and capital investments.

We are building excellent ties with Brittany Ferries in France thanks to the Brittany Ferries contract negotiated by the Committee *for* Economic Development last term. I will be working closely with our External Relations team to establish an appropriate Guernsey-France Forum for trade, cultural and sporting co-operation, seeking to partner with the Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders.

With Alderney, my intention is to establish a sub-committee focused on Bailiwick-wide economic opportunities, knowledge sharing, which might feed as well into the Bailiwick Commission, which has been established. Overall, we are overdue a refreshed Economic Development Strategy, but it is important that we also need to embrace a number of other areas. One is renewable energy, supporting solar generation, offshore wind, and vertical wind opportunities. Another area is circular economy, removing planning barriers to composting and waste reuse, supporting more local growing, which is starting to blossom after projects like the soil farm.

We need to remind ourselves about making sure that our economic growth is inclusive, tapping into what is called the purple pound by making sure that jobs and services are more accessible for Islanders with disabilities, and this requires closer co-operation with the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security. We should be valuing unpaid work as well in our economy. From carers to the third sector, the invisible and often unaccountable parts of our economy deserve recognition and support. I truly believe we also need better data to make more informed decisions. I will lead on the development of a public economic dashboard and a digital data twin, tools that industry and Government can use to model and design solutions powered by accessible APIs.

But to make all of that happen, I am keen that we reimagine how we also work together with industry and with the Civil Service. I will seek to tap into more local expertise and talent, expand participatory governance through new structures like the Innovation and Tourism Management

Boards, and I will work with my team to empower the political Members to run with their specific workstreams as well.

175 I would like to work very closely with the States of Guernsey CEO to bring clearer accountability and responsibility for Committee mandates, and I have been a strong proponent of the re-establishment of the chief officer position for Committee mandates.

We should be cutting bureaucracy using recorded meetings and action-led decision-making lists as pioneered by DPA, so valuable resources within the Civil Service can be used for more valuable tasks.

180 In closing, sir, I am standing today because I know I can add real value to driving the Economic Development Committee from day one. I have served my apprenticeship under Deputy Inder, I have built close relationships across the States and industry and helped deliver real outcomes. I am a real bridge builder. I bring energy, experience, and a track record of getting things done. Guernsey's economic future demands fresh ideas, dynamism, strategic thinking, deep collaboration, and relentless follow-through. That is what I am here to offer, and I ask you for your support.

Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** I invite Deputy Gollop, as the proposer of Deputy Blin, to speak to his candidature, please.

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

195 It gives me great pleasure to speak on behalf of Deputy Blin. Sir, Members of the Assembly, it is a real pleasure for me to propose my colleague, Deputy Christopher Blin, for the role of President of the Committee *for Economic Development*. Chris is someone I have known since we were at Elizabeth College, I think about 40 years ago, and come to know him not only as a Deputy, but as a fellow town resident, and a friend, and a person of strong character.

I have watched him apply himself quietly but effectively to some important challenges facing this Island. He is a listener, a problem solver, and someone who approaches issues with a calm and determined focus.

200 We share a connection that goes back some time. We were educated at the college. I remember he doing better than me in the French lessons because he is bilingual or multilingual. After school, Chris went on to earn a degree in economics and languages, which says a lot about both his analytical mind and his international outlook. He is well-travelled and worked in several countries, including France, South America and the United Kingdom. I know he has connections in Africa, Mauritius and many other places, the Middle East too. He is fluent in both English and French and has gained a real understanding of different cultures and business environments.

210 But no matter where life took him, Guernsey always called him back. He returned many times and eventually made the choice to come back permanently and be very much part of the town and society, and invest himself fully in the place he still calls home.

Sport has played a big part in Chris's life too – I did not realise this – whether it was rugby, tennis or cycling, he has always approached sport with energy and commitment. That team spirit and focus carries through into his professional and political life. He understands the importance of collaboration and timing, and he knows when to push forward and when to listen.

215 Chris spent part of his earlier career in the finance sector, but he made a very deliberate decision to step away from that world and strike out on his own. He has built several successful businesses in areas such as recruitment, logistics and international trade. I would add he is a serial entrepreneur and has involved himself in everything from hospitality, retail, baking, cyber, AI, all kinds of things, fiduciary sector as well. I think one should point out I opened one of his shops when he ran a mini market.

220 He knows what it means to manage risk, to hire staff, to negotiate deals and to make a business work in the real world. That experience gives him a real edge when it comes to understanding what local entrepreneurs and employers need from governments. What sets him apart is his natural instinct for solving problems. He has an ability to look at complex issues and calmly work through

225 the possible solutions. He enjoys helping people. He was someone who would take a call late at night to go the extra mile if he thinks it can make a difference.

A combination of approachability and quiet determination is rare, but it is needed more than ever in leadership. He is sociable, easy to talk to, and often brings people together. Indeed, I think he is extremely well-spoken and gets on with many members across the community, including, 230 I would argue, investors in our society, high-net-worth individuals, and people who make a difference to our enterprise.

When there is a job to do, Deputy Blin does it with care, with planning and with purpose. He has shown his ability to lead in this Assembly, whether it be the Offshore Wind Sub-Committee or President of the Overseas Aid & Development Commission, when he went from a reduced budget 235 to a lot of expansive activity, culminating in a very successful evening in April, which combined memories of the homecoming and the refugee crisis across the world.

He is not someone who seeks attention, but someone who earns respect for his actions. In standing for the Presidency of Economic Development, Deputy Blin is offering this Assembly a leader who understands business, values collaboration and brings a fresh, constructive approach. 240 He knows that economic development is not just about growth, but opportunity for businesses, for workers. He will give the role his full attention and he will serve with clarity, integrity and real commitment.

I believe he has the right skills, the right mindset and the right character to take this important responsibility forward. I would also add –

245 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop, your five minutes are up, I am afraid. So now I will turn to Deputy Blin to speak to his candidature.

**Deputy Blin:** Thank you, sir; and thank you to Deputy Gollop.

250 Actually running was my strength from the school sports and things, and squash.

I suppose this is the moment. I acknowledge I am not the official nominee, in fact my candidacy might be rather regarded in true *Yes, Minister* terms as a very brave decision and by brave, of course, I mean ill-advised, inconvenient and unlikely to make the impact. But, it may not fit neatly, sometimes when you care deeply about where things are going you do stand up, even if the 255 machinery of process is wondering why. But I have stood today not to disrupt but because I believe the role of President of Economic Development should not simply be received, it should be examined, discussed and earned. When the future of our economy is at stake I think it is a little bit healthier, and divergence is not a bad thing. Exactly as my colleague Deputy Kazantseva-Miller said at the beginning of her speech.

260 I would like to put myself forward for the role of President of the Committee *for* Economic Development and this is not a position I seek lightly. I fully understand the responsibility and the opportunity because at the heart of this Committee's work lies something fundamental, our ability as a jurisdiction to create opportunity, support productivity and shape an economy that is dynamic, inclusive and resilient.

265 So the economic mandate. The Committee's mandate is clear and it is far-reaching, and we are tasked with promoting economic growth and diversification, supporting and attracting businesses, leading on tourism, innovation, digital policy, AI, workforce development, building external relationships and shaping infrastructure decisions through an economic lens. It is an ambitious brief, and rightly so. If we want a strong, sustainable future for this Island, we need a Committee that 270 brings energy, clarity and delivery to the table. It is leadership and it is teamwork. If elected, I will lead with focus, pace and collaboration. I will form a Committee that is purposeful, skilled and committed. Each Member would be chosen for the experience, energy and the mindset they bring, and they will be empowered to lead in areas where they can make the greatest impact. Whether their skills lie in finance, or retail, or IT, or infrastructure, entrepreneurship, they will have a clear role and real ownership. But, more importantly, we will work as a team, with shared responsibility, trust, 275 and mutual respect. Progress happens when people feel valued, listened to, and trusted to lead.

Now why me? Why do I believe I am the right person for this role? Because I bring what this job demands, real world commercial experience, long-standing engagement with the Guernsey business community and a track record of building relationships and getting things done. I have spent over 35 years founding, growing, investing in business across sectors. It is retail, it is consultancy, it is recruitment, it is fiduciary and I still remain actively involved in several ventures and maintain strong ties with the Guernsey finance sector and our broader business community.

But more than that, I understand business from the inside. The pressure, the pace and the need for Government to be a help, not a hindrance. I have seen where the system works and where it stalls. I know that Guernsey's economic future depends on rebuilding confidence and unlocking the opportunity. If I am elected, I will be visible, I will be engaging and engaged and a constructive President, a champion for all parts of our economy. And for a fresh approach, I want to bring a more responsive, outward-facing and delivery-focused approach to the Committee's work.

With the right team, we will engage directly and regularly with businesses of all sizes, host industry forums and listening sessions, work across Government to remove friction points, respond faster and more clearly to economic concerns and promote Guernsey confidently as a place to visit, to live, to invest and to grow. This is not about growing a budget, it is about raising our ambition and improving co-ordination. It is about putting energy and intent behind the mandate we have already been given.

As far as delivering on the mandate, let me briefly outline the priorities. So growth and diversification. We must support both our core sectors and our emerging industries. That means being agile, strengthening what we do well while embracing innovation and new value streams. Economic Development should be a partner to business, whether helping a start-up get off the ground or supporting a larger employer with expansion or investment. We need to simplify where possible, unblock barriers and be proactive rather than passive.

Tourism and events. Tourism is not just a lifestyle asset we talk about of 3%, it is a vital contributor to our economy. We must revitalise our strategy in a way that aligns with connectivity, affordability and the quality of experience we offer, and that includes reviewing engineered materials arresting systems (EMAS) and associated aviation policies, which have direct impacts on air links and business viability. Our events programme must also be co-ordinated economically, grounded and tied into seasonal promotion and sector strategy.

A little bit of focus on a really key part, the digital and the AI. On digital innovation, we need to lead, not follow. I would make artificial intelligence a cornerstone of our economic growth strategy. AI is reshaping industries, improving productivity, and creating new opportunities, and Guernsey must not sit back. So we should innovate, establish the innovation hub, attract start-up investors and talent, pilot AI in public services to improve delivery and efficiency, launch the AI training and remote work pathways, giving our people the tools to thrive. AI is not a threat, it is an opportunity, and I would make sure I would be an active participant in that digital economy.

Skills and workforce applies to this. We must align education and training with our economic needs, and that means collaboration between ESC, business and the Guernsey Institute to ensure we are equipping people with the right skills for this changing world.

External relations. I have already have strong relationships with counterparts in Jersey and in France and I would use them to strengthen co-operation around that connectivity, trade and common interests.

Infrastructure. We need infrastructure that unlocks opportunity like Leale's Yard must be delivered. As President I would work closely with the GDA to ensure policy investment and delivery are aligned.

Offshore wind. If elected I would continue to lead on the offshore wind, hopefully with the support of Policy & Resources. I would welcome the opportunity to remain Chair of the Offshore Wind Group because I believe continuity at this point is essential. This is the single largest economic opportunity Guernsey has seen in the generations. I have spent more than three years driving this forward with colleagues and I am determined to see it through. Offshore wind is not just about energy. It is about transforming our economy, creating hundreds of new jobs in engineering,

logistics, construction, maintenance, environment, ecotourism. These are not hypothetical roles, they are real, skilled, local jobs that can diversify our economy and retain Island talent. Economic development must be at the table, ensuring we fully explore the wider economic benefits. This project can change Guernsey's future and I intend to make sure we are ready.

So, in closing, we know the challenges of a changing world, the demographic pressures, the rising costs, the need for GST, but we also know the potential. If you support me as President, I will bring energy, commercial insight and a determination to deliver. I will build a team based on the clarity, collaboration and focus and we can together unlock the opportunity, shape a stronger, more confident economic future for Guernsey, and thus I ask for your support.

**The Bailiff:** Members of the States there will now be an opportunity to question the two candidates on areas of policy included within the mandate of the Committee *for* Economic Development. I simply remind Members that the questioner should not speak for more than 30 seconds and the candidates will be entitled to speak for not more than one minute in response to each question.

Deputy Falla.

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

Sir, I would like to hear the candidates' view on the level of regulation that there is in the business environment and how that is going to be best addressed in the next four years.

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

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Thank you, sir.

The rise of regulation is across the board, right? It is not just financial regulation, data protection, etc. I think we might want to do a review or do a bit of an audit of all the regulatory barriers that businesses are facing and take a more comprehensive approach at it. Having said that, we are also undergoing the review of the Guernsey Competition Authority regulation and so that is certainly a live area which we can learn from to take forward in looking at other regulatory frameworks.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Blin.

**Deputy Blin:** Yes, I would say, look, we are an Island where we keep on making rules within the GFSC, all the necessity requirements, especially for things like for Moneyval we had to make sure we were squeaky clean and right. So sometimes that leads to impacts on businesses which do not always work. So we should be basically, at least as facilitators, ensuring we are helping businesses when they come to us with instant responses to try and find solutions, and from that we can look at changing the Laws and the rules we have.

**The Bailiff:** Alderney Representative Snowdon.

**Alderney Representative Snowdon:** Thank you, sir.

With Alderney and Guernsey in fiscal union, how do you see Alderney and Guernsey working together on economic development to benefit the Bailiwick?

Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Blin.

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

As Alderney Representative Snowdon will know, I am a very strong believer in a link with Alderney. I know that within the HECC there is growth with what is happening, having an effect there. I know that with the work we are doing with the offshore wind group and looking at OREC

opportunities for Alderney there, I believe the faster we get Alderney to be as self-sufficient as possible, the pride of the Alderney Island and Guernsey will be so equal it will be like a proper relationship.

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

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Thank you, sir.

          As I said in my opening speech, I would like to establish a proper subgroup populated not only by hopefully Alderney Representatives but other members of the community across the Bailiwick, which will look at those joint opportunities. I see them around tourism and joint tourism marketing, we talked about renewable energy, obviously e-gaming is a key pillar of Alderney and the wider Bailiwick economy. I would be very keen that we explore that more creative fintech digital asset space, and potentially we can be sandboxing things in Alderney that we might not necessarily want to sandbox as a first stage in Guernsey.

395       Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Niles.

**Deputy Niles:** You both mentioned skills as being an important part of your framework going forward. Can you expand upon the work that you would do to ensure that we have the right skills in the future for Guernsey?

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

405       **Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Thank you, sir.

          This was one of the workstreams I helped co-lead together with colleagues from the former Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture. We created a draft human capital development framework and one of the key recommendations was to create a more external body or agency, a skills agency which would help co-ordinate our efforts between Government, between communities, third sector and industry. This remains, I think, one of the key actions we need to take and I think we need to work very closely with the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture to make that happen and to make sure that we have got a comprehensive plan to take the skills strategy forward.

415       **The Bailiff:** Deputy Blin.

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

          A really interesting point. I will separate the point of the skills, for example, let us take for the more technical people in apprenticeships, we build Leale's Yard, we create apprenticeships, we get GDA going, we create apprenticeships, the schools are already talking, some very interesting speeches have come out recently from schools, talking about how to bring AI in. A recent exposition at Elizabeth College had talked about how they can develop collaboration for AI. Things are changing fast so we need to change fast.

          Part of my plan of work we look at is in AI, looking at how we bring it to the whole Island, so through skills, through study programmes, but also for the Island to work out how we can be most effective so it is a really key part.

425       **The Bailiff:** Deputy Strachan.

**Deputy Strachan:** Sir, you have both mentioned the importance of local entrepreneurs, please would you expand on specifics in your plans and how you are going to support them?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Blin.

435 **Deputy Blin:** A really good question. The entrepreneurs. There are several types. We often say that, 'Oh, Guernsey, we have too many wealthy people not paying sufficient tax.' A lot of these entrepreneurs and these are high-level, high-net-value or ultra-high-net-value who make contact with our Island, they are the individuals who have more interest in doing things with social capital or commissioning or areas to help rather than profiteering by setting up companies. So by engaging good relationships with these individuals to see how they can be most effective for us, that is the best way to work with them and also what can they bring to help us develop our communities. They have a lot of interest to actually give to us and to help our community because they have had their successes.

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

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Thank you, sir.

We have got the Digital Greenhouse, which I helped establish, which ended up absorbing Startup Guernsey, which I know Deputy Strachan was closely involved with as well. Digital Greenhouse is currently undergoing a review and I think this is a really right time to see how we approach supporting entrepreneurship. But there are a couple of other key areas which we have been progressing around changes to share taxation. The way we tax shares and entrepreneur shares is really unfavourable right now, so that is something we need to progress and I would like to do through this year's Budget.

450 We also launched a trial of the Guernsey Enterprise Investment Scheme, which gives tax incentive to investors to invest into startups. There is a whole suite of projects we have been doing, but it is time to also take it to the next level through the review of the Digital Greenhouse and the Innovation Board.

460 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** Thank you.

We have heard plenty about AI, artificial intelligence and so on, but retail on the Island provides 4,000 jobs. What would you both do to assist that industry? What are the pitfalls we must avoid?

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

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** The way we like to work in Economic Development is through working closely with industry groups. So we supported the creation of the Guernsey Retail Group, the GRG, and we funded their work to develop a new retail strategy. So I think we will have to wait and see what the GRG comes back with and really support what their strategy is within that.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Blin.

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

475 The retail, we went to the G7 meeting where each of the different businesses spoke and retail spoke, and one of the things they spoke about was actually the minimum wage because they cannot get young people working in the retail shops as trainees if that wage is too high, closer to a full-time person working. So it is not just about the Guernsey Retail Group, it is actually talking to them, 'What are the things blocking you?' That is what they said is blocking them. So it is great having all the groups and great seeing how we are going to battle off online sales to retail, but we need to engage. Every single industry here knows what they need, how they need it. All we have to do is listen, work what we can do and adapt and take it from there. It is a listening exercise to take the business forward.

485 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Goy.

**Deputy Goy:** Guernsey's finance industry is 40% of the Island's GDP. Unfortunately, it is also completely dependent on SWIFT, a 52-year-old financial transaction system that is controlled by sanction-happy Uncle Sam. Consequently, many investors are increasingly diversifying their investments away from SWIFT and the euro-dollar system of which Guernsey is a part of. They are increasingly diversifying their investments to CIPS and non-dollar assets. Unfortunately, Guernsey's economic outreach has mostly been limited to the UK and EU and the finance sector.

495 **The Bailiff:** The question has expired.  
Deputy Le Tocq.

**Deputy Le Tocq:** Thank you, sir.  
The budget of the Committee for Economic Development is around £12 million, around half of that is taken up in pay costs and a good chunk of the rest is allocated to various particular agencies. With regards to what the candidates wish to do and the fact that we will be looking for savings, where would they tend to look for those savings?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Blin:

505 **Deputy Blin:** Thank you for that question.  
That is a really good point. In my speech I did say it is not about increasing the budget, it is about how we take the action forward. Like in any business, you are starting up or improving a large business, it is by the drive you take to engage to find out what are the areas. Most businesses and most industries know where they can save. I will even revert back to Deputy Goy's comment. We should look at even the industries that are in finance and the systems, the operating systems to reduce. We can do a lot of reductions by listening to businesses. You do not have to spend to grow.

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

515 **Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** I think that is a really important point. I think there are a number of things to mention. The way we like to work is through joint partnerships where it is not just taxpayer funding, but we have got participation and funding through industry. That is the way Guernsey Finance has been set up, and that is very much the direction of travel for the Innovation Board. So we hope for every pound of invested taxpayer money we can actually have a significant multiplier effect elsewhere.

520 I am hoping that we can bring new revenue as well, such as through the visitor levy, which will hopefully reduce the taxpayer funding and create maybe a saving there. As I said previously, the key is that we work very closely, constructively with other States' Departments to really drive the Economic Development agenda through our trading bodies, so the Airport, Aurigny, or the Port. So I think it is doing things better in a joined-up approach rather than seeking more and more taxpayer funding.

Thank you.

530 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Cameron.

**Deputy Cameron:** Thank you, sir.  
How do you view the potential expansion of the early years' education entitlement from 15 to 30 hours as an economic enabler, particularly in terms of workforce participation and productivity?  
Thank you.

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



**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** So this is an area of policy that is very dear to my heart and I have been helping championing that. What we have actually discovered is that the childcare sector is really struggling for a number of reasons, through regulation but also the way the model around the 15-hour free provision is currently structured. I think where the real needs are, are actually around the support for the under-tuos rather than support for the three and four-year-olds before school. What I would like to do is look at parental support as part of our Tax Review Strategy so we can actually identify where that support is best targeted and how we will actually fund it as well.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Blin:

**Deputy Blin:** I think this is the one question we are very much aligned on because actually this is how we can get people back into the workforce. We all want to have our children but as soon as we have we realise one of us has to stop working, so the cost of going to work is basically cancelled out by the cost of this care. Not only that, but we know the rules of the 1,000 days of the child's growth are the most important ones. For various reasons, this is a really important aspect which we should support. It also relieves the need of where we have to look out for bringing more people on to the Island or more staff, etc., because actually we have the workforce here.

Also, as Deputy Kazantseva-Miller said, the businesses operating these businesses, they have got so much regulation and pressure on them it gets harder and harder to operate, so unless we take an interest as Government to do this, it is very difficult.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Camp.

**Deputy Camp:** Yes, there has been much talk about collaboration but the reality is that the voice of the financial industry was largely ignored during the last term and for previous terms. How do you propose to ensure that collaboration is meaningful?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Blin.

**Deputy Blin:** That is an excellent question and this is the biggest part of our economy which helps us thrive is the financial services. I have heard lots of voices over the past four or five years of the frustrations, whether it is opening bank accounts or certain regulations and different rules we are bringing in, etc.

We should always have been listening. I did not see a very proactive regime. We would have forums sometimes, we would have things there, but we need to have almost a team which was available to look and talk to all these issues as they came up every time. That is why it is important for this going forward we have to operate correctly.

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

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Thank you, sir.

The finance sector has a very elaborate patchwork of bodies that all amalgamate into the GIBA but we also have GFSC, we had a whole swash of stakeholders and I would like to think that we have been engaging but I think we need to actually review how we are doing that. Because from the political point of view, we only had one political lead for finance and being a sector together with professional services, that is 50% of our GVA, I think we actually need a different approach. So I think we need to be doing more, not less, with finance and have more political oversight, engagement and scrutiny from the Committee going forward.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Parkinson:

**Deputy Parkinson:** Thank you, sir.

590 Do the candidates see business opportunities in the tertiary education sector?

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

595 **Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** This is the area of policy where I am very supportive of looking into the potential of establishing a university provision in Guernsey. This is something the Committee looked at early on, but there was uncertainty around the secondary education and the model suggested that it was going to be quite expensive. Because we have got the TGI campus hopefully being delivered in the next two years, I do believe there is now a better foundation for us to look at the tertiary education offering in Guernsey and something I would certainly like to look into.

600 Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Blin:

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

605 It is hugely important. Tertiary would also be the charity sector for commissioning but on the tertiary specifically, so if you want to live long and prosper, you want to finish your career, you want to then continue being helpful, whether it be to your family or to the community, and you carry a lot of experience – people forget about the importance of that experience, so we should have that system we should maximise the use of this to continue the belief of what people do in life.

610 So basically if we could create something around that to structure a way to allow them – because companies get rid of the workers after they finished because even if they did not want to they are too expensive to keep doing what they do. These are the generally the same people who have such wide skillsets, and I see them left, right and centre offering assistance all the time. We should maximise that, harness that.

615

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Gabriel:

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

620 I would like to hear from the candidates their opinion on the creation of a free trade zone at our ports and whether that would be an economic enabler, a hindrance and how they would manage the geographical constraints?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Blin.

625 **Deputy Blin:** I have seen free trade zones in other jurisdictions and they can have benefits or disadvantages so here it would be a case of mixing it between the benefits of it, the impact of what we would use it for and how impactful it would be, and let us not forget we are a community of only 60,000-plus people. We are not a huge area so we have to choose the areas with ideas like that or other ideas we can grow from. All these things, they all have to be looked at in ways that they are going to actually create for us, to our advantage.

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

635 **Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** I mentioned looking into creating a special economic zone or a free port zone at the airport. I think that is probably a prime location for us to be looking into. I have also looked at potentially doing that in the ports but I think that is going to be more challenging. I think the biggest value potentially of that zone would be, if we do have GST down the line, is for that to make it GST exempt, so you could be storing high-value goods, you could be undertaking work on yachts, for example. I think it is actually through the introduction of GST where we can start forgoing tax exemptions in special zones.

640

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** Thank you, sir.

645 Candidates, the review of the GCRA was one of the significant pieces of work that the previous Committee ran out of time on. Would the candidates agree with me that this work needs completing quick sharp and the Island deserves a regulatory regime fit for the size of the Island not that of a country?

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

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Absolutely. This was work in progress, it is quite nuanced and complex and it will be picked up very quickly, I assume, because we do need a resolution. The industry is waiting for the resolution, the regulator is waiting for a resolution, and we need the confidence to ensure we have got a proportionate competition regulation regime.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Blin.

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

660 I am at a slight disadvantage with this of not knowing the details of parts of the review going on. However, I can still respond on the understanding the GCRA needs to be reviewed. But we have currently, in the last few years, seen in a number of situations, whether it be the merger acquisition of Sure and Airtel or the change in electricity price for Guernsey Electricity for whatever reasons, where from the public's opinion there was a feeling that you have taken away the regulator protecting the consumer.

665 It may not be like that in reality but that is how it is interpreted. So I would agree that there needs to be a review on it and an understanding, according to size and scale, of what is needed.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Helyar.

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

Do the candidates have any views on how Economic Development might improve the quality and variety of Bailiwick air connectivity?

675 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Blin.

**Deputy Blin:** That is one of the key ones. So for the air connectivity, there are a number of ideas I have, whether they carry within the Committee for Economic Development or not. But we need to restructure what we are doing. It is not about stopping an airline or bringing in easyJet or something, it is about actually seeing what is fit for purpose for us to be an economic enabler. For example, pan-island planes around just the islands, the smaller ones. Aurigny focusing just on its core sites and not going – core destinations and lifeline routes, such as Southampton, but also city, etc., but not going beyond the Bilbao, the Paris. Let that come under other operators. That is where the EMAS or other ideas could come.

685 There is a whole piece of work around it and I am very pleased that Deputy Helyar asked me that question because he is taking on the role of working with STSB, and this is going to be something I will be very closely interested in working with, given the fact that we need these changes for connectivity and economic enabling.

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

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Air connectivity has to be one of our key priorities going forward. My policy position is that we need to be reducing reliance on Aurigny and ATRs as part of our overall structure of flights. I think we need to be bringing new operators that are ideally not flying ATRs for that resilience purposes. For inter-Island and Channel Island connectivity, thanks to the successful amendment that Deputy Burford and myself have brought earlier this year, we are going to be investigating consolidating the network in the Channel Islands, flying small planes, and the Skybus partnership with Aurigny to fly Twin Otters I think is a move in the right direction.

But, of course, if we talk about Bailiwick connectivity, we have to sort the Alderney runway as well as a matter of priority and make a decision on that.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** I would be interested to hear in response to the last question, it is relevant too, what the candidates view is on how to enhance and develop tourism, in particular to maintain the French day visitors and also encourage the blue economy and indeed eco-tourism and niche tourism.

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

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** I think we have made actually quite a lot of progress in this political term. The marketing, the tourism and marketing programmes have been really revamped, so I think they appeal much more to a younger, more active audience. We have been doing much more looking at supporting the shoulder months. We have got fantastic natural assets, and people coming here love doing active tourism, and I think working as a Bailiwick, even with Jersey for that Channel Islands offering, is very important. French connection for us I think is going to be a game-changer and I think Brittany Ferries has delivered that game-changing opportunity for us that we have got to capitalise upon. But I think we also need to evolve the Tourism Management Board. It was an interim step so we need to see how do we take it forward to make sure it has more teeth, a really good participation from industry and taking it forward.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Blin.

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

A really great question. First of all regarding the day trippers, I believe it is still under consideration. Jersey has done it to avoid getting stuck with the fact that we will have to use passports instead of the identity cards, but that is being looked at temporarily. Blue economy, fantastic. The niche one is fantastic. If we get the wind farm, for example, we will have in Saint-Pierre, they are getting 15,000 visitors doing ecotourism visiting the wind farms there at €48, €50 a pop. We could have niche areas, we could have the races, the sailing races for France. We have one next week coming to Guernsey, Tour des Ports. We have got the William the Conqueror event in 2027, one of the largest events, the thousandth year since he was born.

Again, what I would like to see is us pushing really hard to engage with France, with Jersey and the UK for regional and other types of niche opportunities; movies, films, all the things that bring the strength to this Island. We are a small Island, the most beautiful coastline –

**The Bailiff:** That is your minute, Deputy.

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

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Leadbeater.

**Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, sir.

745 With Jersey stealing the march on us in terms of tuna and membership of ICCAT, what do the candidates propose to do? Do they propose to crack on and try and join the race or does it not form one of their priorities?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Blin.

750 **Deputy Blin:** Brilliant question.

I have been reading about that and actually I do not understand why we have not picked up on that. It is an angling opportunity, it is a tourism opportunity, it brings people there, it is something we are famous for doing on this Island so, yes, as far as I know, please bring it on as fast as possible.

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

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** I think it is a work in progress. I think we are waiting for an update from really the External Relations Team about what is being done, and that is something we should pick up quickly on.

760

**The Bailiff:** Is there any Member who has not asked a question who wishes to do so? You will have to wait Deputy Goy.

Deputy St Pier.

765 **Deputy St Pier:** Thank you, sir.

Do the Members have any views on the future reshaping of the public trustee?

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

770 **Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** I am pleased to say that we did a very detailed piece of work, which was actually led by now Deputy Niles, former non-States' Member, and the formats and the shape of it will be changing, so there will be no longer that threat of the public purse paying for effectively the litigation and the trust work. I hope we can make announcements about that quite soon and in due course, but a lot has been done to progress that.

775

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Blin.

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** I am afraid this is a third question that I am not fully aware because I am not sitting on Economic Development. I have been reading about the consequences, I have  
780 been reading about the penalties, the financial penalties to us. So I just understand that if we work through this and we make the changes that will happen. But a bit like the other questions whether it be on tuna or on the other areas, I am not fully conversant but I can only give a perceptive answer on what I would like to see.

785 **The Bailiff:** Any other Member wishing to ask a question?

All right, Deputy Goy.

**Deputy Goy:** Sir, continuing on my question, are you open to pursuing foreign direct investments from the East where the world's biggest economic growth engines are located so that  
790 Guernsey has the capital to successfully diversify beyond finance.

Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Blin.

795 **Deputy Blin:** Thank you, Deputy Goy.

I would say I would be happy from the east, west, north or south. Basically, we should look at all opportunities, providing they are maintained and they fit within the structure, within our rules of the Guernsey Financial Services Commission, whether it be through crypto or through other virtual asset service providers (VASPs) or whatever product is required or platform is required. We should look at everything. That is what we do and we are already doing that very successfully. There are other areas that you may be aware of, and I would encourage you to encourage them to look at Guernsey for this. We are a perfect host for developing these things and an impact which can benefit us as well. So thank you for that.

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

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Guernsey is open for business from all over the world and if industry wants to work with partners from Asia, from wherever, they are absolutely free to do so. Maybe the question points also to the opportunity for infrastructure investment or some of the public infrastructure investment. Obviously, most of our infrastructure and capital investment is funded through taxpayer or borrowing. If that is a model we want to change, I think that is something we will need to be looking at carefully and consider that.

**The Bailiff:** If there are no more questions, even though there could be an opportunity for one more, then perhaps you would like to show your appreciation for the two candidates. *(Applause)*

It is now time to vote for whoever you want to be as President of the Committee *for* Economic Development. I remind you that the two candidates are Deputy Kazantseva-Miller, who is proposed by Deputy de Sausmarez and seconded by Deputy St Pier, and Deputy Blin proposed by Deputy Gollop and seconded by Deputy Gabriel.

I simply ask that you write one name of the two candidates on a sheet of paper and pass them to the Sheriff. Are there any more voting slips to hand in? We are going to now adjourn so that the votes can be counted and the two candidates for the presidency can resume their seats back in the Chamber.

*The Assembly adjourned at 10.34 a.m.  
and resumed its sitting at 10.39 a.m.*

### **Committee *for* Economic Development – Deputy Sasha Kazantseva-Miller elected President**

**The Bailiff:** Members of the States, the result of the election for the President of the Committee *for* Economic Development is as follows: Deputy Kazantseva-Miller, proposed by Deputy de Sausmarez and seconded by Deputy St Pier, polled 32 votes. Deputy Blin, proposed by Deputy Gollop and seconded by Deputy Gabriel, polled 6 votes. There were no spoilt papers but there was one blank paper, and therefore I will declare Deputy Kazantseva-Miller elected as the President of the Committee *for* Economic Development. *(Applause)*

**2. Committee for Education Sport & Culture –  
Election of President commenced**

*Article 2.*

*The States are asked:*

*To elect a sitting Member of the States as President of the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture to serve until 30th June 2029 in accordance with Rule 16 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation as set out in Section 1 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees.*

835 **The States' Greffier:** Article 2, Election of the President of the Committee for Education, Sport and Culture.

**The Bailiff:** Are there any nominations for the presidency of the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture.

840 Yes, Deputy de Sausmarez.

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

I would like to nominate Deputy Paul Montague for the role.

845 **The Bailiff:** Is that seconded?

**Deputy St Pier:** I wish to second that nomination, sir.

**The Bailiff:** Thank you very much, Deputy St Pier.

850 Are there any other nominations for this presidency? Well, that potentially means we will not have any questions, but it does mean that we will now have speeches from Deputy de Sausmarez and then Deputy Montague.

Deputy de Sausmarez, first, please.

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

855 I am very pleased to nominate Deputy Montague for the role of President of the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture. It is a Committee with an important mandate that, perhaps more than any other policy area, shapes the kind of community that we live in, not least because it is fundamentally important to our young people and the kind of people they become and the opportunities they can access.

860 Nobody in this Assembly has a greater experience and understanding of our education system than Deputy Montague, who has devoted decades to his teaching vocation, with 30 years of service in Guernsey's public sector. While it is true that he does not yet have much parliamentary experience under his belt, he does nonetheless have a lot of relevant adjacent experience of politics.

865 As well as teaching, Deputy Montague has represented his peers through the National Education Union and through chairing the Negotiation Committee for Teachers and Lecturers. These roles are highly political in nature and have given him a lot of experience dealing not only with politicians and civil servants, but also with the media, an important part of any presidential role within Government, but especially at the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture.

870 I first got to know Deputy Montague through his role representing teachers at the NEU, where in my experience he was always articulate and effective. The characteristics that I found most striking were his ability to listen, analyse and then find a way forward. Our secondary and post-16 education sector has been through a lot of upheaval over the last few years, and Deputy Montague has been at the forefront of smoothing the path and making those political decisions work in the real world. He has developed a wide network across the whole education sector and has, I believe, the trust and respect of his peers.

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As a parent of school-aged children myself, I also know Deputy Montague by repute through some of the many young people that he has taught and their parents, and I can attest that he is also very well-liked and respected in those circles. Personally, I think that anyone that can so successfully manage a room full of teenagers and, perhaps even more challengingly, a hall full of their parents, clearly has the kind of qualities that we are looking for in a political leader.

I can attest to Deputy Montague's dedication to education, not just for young people, but lifelong learning as well, and that he does indeed live his values of fairness and open-mindedness. However, I would like to emphasise that he is not an education-shaped one-trick pony, and he is engaged too on other aspects of the mandate. He is most prominently very well known in local sporting circles as a stalwart of the Guernsey Rowing Club, which is testament not only to his own sporting prowess, but also speaks to his understanding of sports clubs in our community. I know that he understands the value of arts and culture too in terms of community cohesion.

Deputy Montague has stepped up to the task because he is not only best qualified for the role, but also best suited, being measured, articulate, thoughtful and analytical.

For these reasons, I commend him to the Assembly.

**The Bailiff:** I will now invite Deputy Montague to speak for up to 10 minutes on his candidature. Deputy Montague, please.

**Deputy Montague:** Thank you, sir, and thank you to my colleagues for that nomination.

Before the election, I said I did not think a novice Deputy should lead a major Committee. So I must begin with the obvious question: what has changed? I have always been struck by those people who view someone who changes their mind as being weak or foolish. But, in fact, when circumstances change, it is only wise to change one's mind. Indeed, I am only following the example set by Deputy de Sausmarez last week.

But what has changed? In the recent election, three of the five members of ESC were unsuccessful, including the President. We are fortunate to have Deputy Cameron and Deputy Gabriel with us still, thank you. But this has left a gap in institutional knowledge and understanding of education in this Assembly and I think that with my experience I can help fill that gap.

Meanwhile, I have witnessed a genuine appetite across this Assembly for a more collegiate form of Government, one built from collaboration rather than confrontation. In this new context, I feel reassured and ready to offer to lead this Committee. However, I am aware of potential concerns, namely that I might be perceived as an insider. This Montague chap has been around in education for 30 years. He will bring simply more of the same, he will not offer any challenge.

Let me offer two reasons why I do not believe that is the case. Firstly, while I have spent much of my career in education, I have done so not as a passive participant but as an active agent of scrutiny and challenge. As a long-standing union representative, I have worked over many years to hold both the Department and the political leadership to account. I have seen first-hand the pressures, contradictions and complexities involved in trying to drive forward education improvement on the Island. Being an insider surely has value.

Secondly, as Deputy Matthews rightly reminded me yesterday, we do not operate a ministerial system. Ours is a committee-based form of Government. In that context, it is all about collective endeavour. A successful Committee must represent a range of views and experience. I bring one perspective, but I am committed to ensuring the Committee reflects many. I am fundamentally a team player.

Another concern some may have is whether someone in my position could move from a very operational role to one that is strategic. I understand that question. But in my previous role, I was often required to engage with broad, long-term policy questions, analysing proposals, testing assumptions, and considering long-term impact. In fact, I have had to respond to more strategic plans, some coherent and some less so, than I care to count. Moreover, I think we sometimes fall into the trap of treating strategy as though it exists in a vacuum, disconnected from real-life



operations. Yes, politicians absolutely should avoid interference and micromanagement but there is another danger, that of becoming too distant from the frontline. Strategy that lacks operational understanding is strategy destined to fail.

The best strategic thinking is rooted in the experience of those who deliver and receive the services. Strategy and operations are not opposites. They are partners in good governance. Sir, some may be looking at me and thinking, 'Poor chap, does he know what he is letting himself in for?' After all, why would anyone willingly take on the so-called poison chalice of ESC? That is a quote from the *Guernsey Press*.

Statistically, anyone hoping for re-election might well steer clear. But let us pause and reflect why this Committee has attracted so much negative attention at the ballot box. It is not because what it does is trivial, it is because what it does is so important. Excellent education for all is a moral and economic necessity. In terms of human flourishing, our lives are enriched through education, sport and culture, and they do indeed bind communities together.

Why do we educate? I am going to give you two answers, because I know this is a varied audience. Firstly, the philosophical. You might agree with Socrates who, in the apology before he was executed, said the unexamined life is not worth living. Or perhaps you are on Team John Stuart Mill, when Jeremy Bentham developed classical utilitarianism, he tried to quantify happiness. Now Mill, who was his protégé, rejected this reductive view. He argued it is better to be Socrates dissatisfied than a fool satisfied. In other words, life is not about seeking pleasure. It is about depth, growth, fulfilment. It is about seeking meaning.

For those who do not like that, here is the economic answer. The long-term prosperity of our Islands depends absolutely on the success and reach of our education system.

**Several Members:** Hear, hear.

**Deputy Montague:** People get frustrated with this Committee because it really matters. That is exactly why we should all want to be involved. So what lies ahead? What must we deliver together, and it is together, as Deputy de Sausmarez said in her speech on Tuesday, these Committees need to work together, not in conflict. Allow me to briefly highlight just some of the vital work for this Committee over the next few years.

Let us start with our youngest. We need to continue working on a cohesive early years' strategy that supports families and ensures every child has the best start in life. For many of us, the focus has recently been on secondary and tertiary education, but we all know, without strong foundations for every child, we are always playing catch up. The long call for review of primary education needs to be a serious and collaborative assessment, but it must not be done in isolation. It needs to take into account our housing needs and our Population Strategy.

I have been closely involved in the transformation programme in the secondary sector. In this, I have learned first-hand that we must listen, we must engage and we must plan in a way that brings stability, reduces risk, and promotes the highest of standards. From September, the new model for secondary schools will be in place. Here, we need stability but stability does not mean stagnation.

Our goal in all those schools must be cultural change, higher expectations and raising ambitions. It is not enough to introduce new rules. We need to change the norms and this is far more than about just what happens in schools. Our societal attitudes to education need to change. We also need to support the partnership work that is just beginning between the grant-aided colleges and state sector schools. This Island is too small to ignore the potential synergies and benefits that can arise from that.

Phase 1 of the post-16 campus for the Guernsey Institute at Les Ozouets must be delivered on time. For too long, our post-16 students and educators have been promised jam tomorrow. The Education Law review is a priority and alongside that governance reform must continue. This could be a real game changer for all our schools, but it must be fully supported and it must be carefully supported.

980 Just yesterday, at my last ever parents' evening – although we will wait and see what happens  
over the next four years – I spoke to a newly appointed school governor who has found the process  
really inspiring. We need to ensure we get more community involvement in all our schools. We need  
to continue to develop a coherent, impactful skills strategy. We must prepare our learners for a  
world in which artificial intelligence and rapid technological change are not passing trends, but  
985 permanent shifts. Many teachers laugh about the installation of those interactive whiteboards in  
schools many years ago, much money was spent, very few of those boards were actually used. But  
AI is not a passing technological fad. Surely, we all know it will change all our lives in ways we can  
hardly begin to imagine. We cannot afford to be caught out by this seismic change.

In my manifesto, I wrote about the need to support the mental and physical health of our young  
people. That means resourcing pastoral care, mental health provision and attendance support  
990 properly. I also support exploring bold initiatives like that of smartphone-free childhood in  
Guernsey. Indeed, tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock at Les Beaucamps High School, Dr Sanjiv Nichani  
will be presenting evidence on the impact of smartphone use on young people's well-being. Tickets  
available on Eventbrite.

Those are all mainly education-based but we should never forget the foundational role of the  
995 sports and arts in supporting well-being for all people. We need to continue to examine the success  
of Activate Plan for Sport. We know that the longer we can keep young people active, the better  
their long-term health outcomes will be. For a small island in both arts and sports, we are amazingly  
lucky. The opportunities in this 25-square-mile rock are so full, but it is our responsibility to ensure  
that those opportunities are available to all.

1000 In summary, I hope that I offer the Assembly today something clear, a deep understanding of  
the system, a willingness to challenge, a collaborative spirit, and the determination to lead  
constructively and with accountability. If I am entrusted with this responsibility, I will give it  
everything.

Sir, thank you, and I ask you to support me. Thank you. (*Applause*)

1005 **The Bailiff:** Well, Members of the States, there is a single candidate for the presidency of the  
Committee for Education, Sport & Culture, that is Deputy Montague, proposed by Deputy de  
Sausmarez, and seconded by Deputy St Pier. If you wish to support him in his bid to be the  
President, then you will write his name on a sheet of paper.

1010 Are there any more voting slips that need to be handed to the Sheriff? No, well, we will move  
straight on to the next item of business.

### **3. Committee for Employment & Social Security – Election of President commenced**

*Article 3.*

*The States are asked:*

*To elect a sitting Member of the States as President of the Committee for Employment & Social  
Security to serve until 30th June 2029 in accordance with Rule 16 of The Rules of Procedure of the  
States of Deliberation as set out in Section 1 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation  
and their Committees.*

1015 **The States' Greffier:** Article 3, Election of the President of the Committee for Employment &  
Social Security.

**The Bailiff:** Are there any nominations for this office?  
Deputy de Sausmarez.

1020 **Deputy de Sausmarez:** Thank you, sir.  
I would like to nominate Deputy Tina Bury for the role.

**Deputy St Pier:** Sir, I wish to second that nomination.

1025 **The Bailiff:** Thank you very much. Are there any other nominations?  
This is going very smoothly, is it not? Okay, so I would invite Deputy de Sausmarez to speak to the candidature of Deputy Bury for up to five minutes.  
Deputy de Sausmarez, please.

1030 **Deputy de Sausmarez:** Thank you, sir.  
I have no notes on this one because I have had the privilege of working very closely with Deputy Bury on this very Committee, the Committee for Employment & Social Security, for the last four and a half years. So I can speak very much from the heart about how perfect she is to be taking over the presidency of this very important Committee.

1035 It is a Committee with a big budget and a big mandate, and it does some of the most important work, especially with respect to looking after some of the most vulnerable people in our community. I could not think of a better person to be leading it than Deputy Bury.

We have got things like SLAWS, discrimination legislation, and Social Security restructure, as well as a number of other things. But I am sure Deputy Bury will pick out anything she thinks is pertinent.

1040 But I will speak briefly to Deputy Bury's personal attributes and qualities, which make her so well suited for this role. I am sure that many Members by now will know her very well as well. But I have had the privilege of seeing her up close and personal and in action. I would just like to highlight a few of her best qualities for it.

1045 So she is intelligent. By intelligent, I do not just mean intellectually intelligent, which she is. She is very analytical and she does not miss much. But more importantly, she is also emotionally intelligent. A lot of this comes down to the fact that she is able to draw from her own life experiences. She is very open about the fact that sometimes she herself has struggled in terms of being a single parent and struggling to pay rent, and I think that brings a really important and valuable dimension when serving on the Committee for Employment & Social Security.

1050 She is a very principled person. I mean, really principled. But she is incredibly fair, but she is no pushover. She really is not. She works so hard. She has got so much energy and I know it is not particularly relevant to the role of presidency, but she is always on the go. She runs marathons. She is always off sea-swimming. She just gets so much stuff done.

1055 Most importantly, she listens. She is a very active listener. She does not just sit there passively listening. She will challenge and she will make sure that she can properly analyse and understand what people are telling her. It makes her a fabulous Committee member and I know that it will make her a really excellent leader as well.

She speaks up and she speaks up especially for those who are not able to speak up for themselves. She acts. She does get on with it. She gets the job done.

1060 More than anything, Deputy Bury is someone that really cares. I know that she really cares about the mandate of Employment & Social Security. Above that, I know she really cares about the people in this Island and their future.

For those reasons, I commend her to the Assembly.

1065 **The Bailiff:** I will now invite Deputy Bury to speak for up to 10 minutes about her candidature. Deputy Bury.

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

1070 Sir, I am not standing here today pitching for the presidency of ESS through any personal ambition or sense of entitlement simply because I am in my second term. I stand here to offer my colleagues what I believe is a practical and sensible direction and some all-important continuity.

As the only remaining member of ESS in the Assembly who is not already allocated to a role, it seems the logical course of action. As it happens, the mandate of ESS is very close to my heart. Plus, I am not shy of the leadership challenge, and a challenge it will be. ESS is a complicated and wide-ranging mandate, as was said in this vote in 2020 by Deputy Le Tocq, who at the time was proposing former Deputy Roffey. He said, and I am paraphrasing, 'This is not a job on which to cut your political teeth. Ideally, it is a job for someone already familiar with the massive policy agenda faced by ESS', and I could not agree with him more.

I will return to my ability to deal with the challenges later. But first it is important to say that this is not merely a practical and sensible offer. There is more heart to it than that. The mandate of ESS quite neatly sums up almost my entire reasons for standing as Deputy in the first place. Of course, there are many areas of Government I could and would be interested in. But it is clear to anyone with even a smidge of local political knowledge that my interest lays in areas of social policy.

When I first stood for election, I did so because I did not feel that our Government represented all Islanders. I looked at the Deputies and I looked at my ballot paper and I did not see who was representing me or people like me. What do I mean by that? Well, I could beat around the bush, but I will not because it is not my style. I mean the poor people. Guernsey is known to be an affluent place, but I know from my lived experience that that does not apply to everyone. Far from it. The gap between the haves and have nots is widening all the time and it is affecting much more than whether you can treat yourself to a bar meal every now and then.

As the recent report from the Community Foundation showed, it is having meaningful impacts on our community's physical and mental health, overall life satisfaction and social connectivity, just to mention a few. I have lived this, being in what is known as in-work poverty as a single parent is not too far back in my rear view mirror. Islanders in these sorts of situations are who I want to make sure are not left behind. That has always been a primary motivation for me being in politics, and ESS is the perfect place to do this from.

I sat on ESS for the full term last term, so I have had nearly five years to get to grips with the mandate. Committee meetings, sub-committees, complex policy creation and bringing policy letters to the States are now all firmly in my wheelhouse. I also sat on HSC as the Vice-President for over three years, which gave me great insight into the importance of cross-Committee working. Through both of these positions, I was able to watch and learn from two of our most experienced politicians in former Deputy Roffey and Brouard, both with differing styles, but each with things for me to take away as the necessary skills for politics, whether that be talking to the media, consulting with the public and interest groups or negotiating with officers, P&R or the States as a whole. As my proposer was on ESS with me, I hope that this shows Members that there is informed faith in my abilities to do the role.

Moving on to the challenges that lay ahead, and there are many, I feel that I have demonstrated my ability to lead in choppy waters. I led the debate for HSC's modernisation of abortion legislation, successfully getting this across the line intact despite facing amendments and a sursis motiv  . I would ask Members to put their feelings on the subject aside for a moment, but to recognise that political subjects rarely come along more contentious than this. At that time, I was a mere nine months into my political career. When I look back, I am not sure what I was doing.

But this leads me neatly on to what is in the pipeline in this coming term for ESS, and there are some more meaty and contentious policy areas that must be addressed. Long-term care is at the top of the list for me. It does not sit solely with ESS. This will be cross-Committee policy development with HSC and P&R. But the sustainability of the fund, benefit rates and, by proxy, the confidence in the market to allow providers to invest and develop sits with ESS.

Last term, the three Committees with the new P&R were not able to reach agreement on a direction. So ESS took the responsibility of bringing a stabilising policy letter earlier this year. However, this was nothing more than a sticking plaster and the bigger decisions still have to be made. We have to address the issues that face us in terms of care provision now, while also being mindful of our younger generations who are the ones that are paying in now, to make sure that the

fund is still available for them when they need it. I pledge to this States to work my socks off to make sure that the community understands that need for balance.

1125 Another one that will need a thick-skinned leader is the next set of policy proposals under phase 2A of the anti-discrimination legislation. The main part of that being the need to bring in what is currently the sex discrimination in Employment Law into the anti-discrimination legislation. Unless my colleagues have been living under rocks instead of on one, I am sure that I do not need to explain the challenges that come with that, another very contentious subject with very polarised  
1130 views. I am happy to face these head-on, liaise with all the stakeholders, and I will do so in a respectful and civil way to all involved.

Another complex but vital piece of work that needs to be continued is the reform of the Social Security contribution system. This workstream has had a complicated life so far. Firstly, it was part of the GST package, but when that did not pass ESS took it as a standalone self-funding piece of  
1135 work. Now that GST-Plus is back on the table, it forms part of that work. But, whatever happens with tax, the Social Security contributions reform needs to happen, and it is no simple beast. As part of this, I would like to look at if we can alleviate some of the pressure on self-employed people's contributions. If we want to maintain diversity and improve diversity in our economy, we need to make starting up easier to do.

1140 So that is some of the really big stuff that is already in train and needs to continue, but what about the new things that I would like to see the ESS Committee tackle? Of course, this will depend on what the Committee as a whole would like to pursue and whatever new way we have as a Government of prioritising our work. But a few things that Guernsey is woefully behind on starts with parental leave. While we at least now have statutory rights to maternity leave and the ability  
1145 to split maternity benefit between parents, we lag behind on the length of time these are supported for, and there is still no statutory right for shared parental leave.

This is a way that Government can support families and make Guernsey a more family-friendly place to live. Policies like this have both positive social and economic benefits, particularly supporting women's participation in work. Building on the mention of participation in work, the findings report published by P&R at the end of last term had a number of recommendations, not  
1150 all for ESS but some that are, and the right to flexible working is one of these. There are various ways of pursuing this with employers, the first is encouragement, the second is legislation. While I am aware that there are desires in some quarters to reduce legislation, it is our stick if the initial carrot does not work. I would like to make sure that this is looked into and progressed in a most  
1155 appropriate fashion. Being in work helps people as individuals, but greater work participation helps our economy as a whole. We need employers to recognise that a lack of flexible working is sometimes a total barrier to entry.

Redundancy Laws is another where we are woeful. Not only are we not currently protecting our workforce from redundancy, but I believe we are putting our economy in a vulnerable position. If  
1160 we have a company with bases in both Jersey and Guernsey, we are quite literally making it cheaper for them to lay off Guernsey workers. Which ones do we think they will choose?

I am aware that I will be running out of time now, sir. So a quick bullet-point gallop through some of the other things that will be on the table for consideration. There is the implementation of the all-important legal aid review recommendations, allowing everybody access to social justice,  
1165 supporting older need, developing the minimum wage, pursuing our savings workstreams, a review of carers allowance, funding of aids and equipment, looking at energy poverty, continuation of the Work and Wellbeing Strategy, and continuing the support of the SEND alliance.

Then there is all the business-as-usual stuff and our actuarial review. Members can be assured, sir, that I will not be sitting on my laurels.

1170 Thank you. *(Applause)*

**The Bailiff:** Members of the States, there is a single candidate for the presidency of the Committee for Employment & Social Security. That is Deputy Bury, who has been proposed by Deputy de Sausmarez and seconded by Deputy St Pier. If you wish to support her nomination, then

1175 please write her name on a piece of paper and no other name. Are there any more voting slips to hand to the Sheriff? No.

**Committee for Education, Sport & Culture –  
Deputy Paul Montague elected President**

1180 **The Bailiff:** Let me declare the result for the presidency of the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture. Deputy Montague, proposed by Deputy de Sausmarez and seconded by Deputy St Pier, secured 35 votes. There were no spoilt papers, there were four blank papers, and therefore I declare him duly elected to that presidency. (*Approbation*)  
Once again, we will move straight on, please.

**4. Committee for the Environment & Infrastructure –  
Election of President commenced**

*Article 4.*

*The States are asked:*

*To elect a sitting Member of the States as President of the Committee for the Environment & Infrastructure to serve until 30th June 2029 in accordance with Rule 16 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation as set out in Section 1 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees.*

1185 **The States' Greffier:** Article 4, Election of the President of the Committee for the Environment & Infrastructure.

**The Bailiff:** Are there any nominations?  
Deputy de Sausmarez.

1190 **Deputy de Sausmarez:** Thank you, sir.  
I would like to nominate Deputy Adrian Gabriel for the role.

1195 **The Bailiff:** This is turning into a double act, is it not?  
Deputy St Pier.

**Deputy St Pier:** You seem to have noticed, sir. Yes, I wish to second that nomination, sir.

1200 **The Bailiff:** Thank you very much.  
Are there any other nominations? In that case, I will turn to the proposer of Deputy Gabriel, Deputy de Sausmarez, to speak for up to five minutes.  
Deputy de Sausmarez.

1205 **Deputy de Sausmarez:** Thank you, sir.  
This is another nomination for which I can speak very much from the heart, having had the great privilege of working very closely with Deputy Gabriel in my former role as President of the Committee for the Environment & Infrastructure, the one I am now nominating him for. He was a very able and trustworthy and hardworking Vice-President of that Committee.

1210 Members will know that it is a mandate that is very dear to my heart, and it is not one that I can drag myself away from easily. It would have been a lot harder to do had I not had the confidence

in Deputy Gabriel that I would be leaving it in safe hands if he were to successfully secure that position. So I really could not think of a better person to carry that work forward.

1215 There is so much work that is underway at the moment that I know he is very knowledgeable of, very invested in, and that he will carry forward. So everything from the flood defences on the Bridge, the Sustainable Development Framework, the Better Transport Plan, a whole range of work that is really integral to that Committee's mandate, I know Deputy Gabriel will be in a really good position to pick up and run with, and there is so much to do.

1220 We have done an awful lot of building the ground over the last four and a half years and now is time for implementation of many of those things. I would say that is Deputy Gabriel's real area of expertise. He has got a fantastic eye for detail, a really good understanding of how things need to work operationally and get them moving. So turning policy into something meaningful on the ground.

1225 This partly comes because I always teased him on the Committee, because he has had such a varied career, and he seems to have done such an incredible range of different roles. But I will just pick out one or two. One of the things he has done, he worked as a civil servant in the Traffic and Highways Services Department, which gave him such a fantastic insight into that area of policy. I have to say, that was particularly useful. He has done a whole range of different roles. If I start listing them now, we will be here all day. I will definitely run out of time.

1230 But he has also served the community as a member of the St Peter Port Douzaine and in terms of his work as a parliamentarian, he has been very involved with the Crown Dependencies Network, representing Guernsey's interests in tripartite meetings, and a very active member of the CPA as well. I know he takes a particular interest in parliamentary matters. So he is a very rounded person. Also, it would be remiss of me not to mention that he was also elected by the British Islands and Mediterranean Small Branch members to be their representative and was also recently elected to  
1235 the Global Small Branches Network as its Vice-Chair. So he is very rounded. He is very well connected, and I have to say, from my experience of being in that role, that is a very useful thing to be, because we can learn so much from other jurisdictions, especially other small islands.

1240 So Deputy Gabriel is someone who is very calm. He is very measured. He is really good at absorbing a lot of information and filtering it down to get to the bones of it. It is often said that Environment & Infrastructure are slightly uneasy bedfellows, but Deputy Gabriel is the perfect person to bring them together. He is just a great guy for the job.

1245 He has got a really good understanding of infrastructure. He has had plenty of practical experience with it as well. But he has also got a real empathy for the natural environment and it has been an absolute joy to see his knowledge in that area expand over the last few years as well.

1250 He is one for doing his homework. He really puts in the hard yards. He is a very hard worker and he gets on with people. He is just really nice and that goes a long way.

As Deputy Le Tocq said in his speech for President of P&R – I have lost track of how many days ago that was, not very long ago – he said, 'We are custodians of this Island for a very short time and we owe it to the electorate to leave it in a better place.' Well, I could not think of a better person to do that than Deputy Gabriel in the role of President *for the* Environment & Infrastructure and so I commend him to the Assembly.

**The Bailiff:** I will now invite Deputy Gabriel to speak for up to 10 minutes.  
Deputy Gabriel, please.

1255

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

I would like to thank my proposer, Deputy de Sausmarez, and seconder, Deputy St Pier, for the confidence they display in me.

1260 I would like to lead the Committee *for the* Environment & Infrastructure to continue to build on the work that has already been started. In the infrastructure side of the mandate, developing policy and the strategies that go alongside them can take time. Built or policy infrastructure, when done well, needs to last the test of time and deliver over the next 30 to 50 years.

The terms 'environment' and 'infrastructure' mean different things to different people. No matter how they are interpreted, they will affect us all in some way or the other. Our environment needs protection and enhancement, and our built infrastructure needs improving to cope with the demands of modern day life. If elected, I would like to build a diverse team to deliver on that mandate and empower those Members.

Some items already in train, which I would like to see through to completion, are the periodic vehicle inspection, the MOT to some, along with the bus fleet replacement programme, a vital part of our transport solution. Their funding arrangements, though, are a key consideration while maintaining the ever-increasing trend of increased ridership. The transition towards electric vehicles and the eventual ban on new traditional combustion powered vehicle sales in the next five or 10 years will need a comprehensive public charging regime introduced too. Grid capacity and funding will be a strategic decision the Committee will need to be informed on and make, coupled with what approach to take to on-street and public parking too.

When it comes to that infrastructure, such as public electric vehicle charging points or coastal defences through to on-Island transport links, both policy and implementation sits with E&I. These examples are all influenced by our Climate Change Policy. This week we have seen record temperatures in mainland Europe exceed 45 degrees. Climate change is here and we know one of its effects is sea level rise. We live on an Island and so we are all acutely aware of its impact.

Our routine coastal defence maintenance scheme will need to be accelerated to protect against those rising sea levels. It is a very real threat and I will also work with the officers of the Civil Service to progress mitigation measures, including working with some of the new members of Deputy Montague's Education, Sports & Culture Committee too. As, for example, stonemasons offer a distinct and excellent service maintaining those sea walls with traditional methods which will need to be continued to be taught in our post-16 education settings. Notwithstanding that, I am open and welcome to technological advancements.

As someone who has grown up on this beautiful Island, I understand the unique challenges and opportunities we face. Respecting and preserving those natural assets is crucial for maintaining the Island's charm and ecological balance. However, it is equally important to ensure that everyone can enjoy these natural spaces. This requires a balanced approach that promotes sustainable practices, protects natural habitats, all the while accommodating development, sporting and recreational needs sympathetically.

If elected, I will continue to build on the work that the Committee, under Deputy de Sausmarez's leadership, worked hard to protect and enhance our local environment. Working closely with the Nature Commission to deliver the Strategy for Nature, ensuring that future generations can enjoy and benefit from the same natural beauty we cherish today, while fostering a thriving, accessible community.

In a term dominated by the tri-factors of the invasion of Ukraine, Brexit and Covid, I was proud to be part of the Committee that, despite these challenges, delivered a revised dairy sector support mechanism, an Electricity Strategy, an on-Island aggregate quarrying solution, and an inert waste and future water storage solution, an approach to noisy vehicles and the enhancement to the D1 driving licence, to name but a few. Some of those projects will need moving to completion and I am ready to get my proverbial teeth stuck into them to realise the benefits for the community.

There are likely to be further projects from the Guernsey Development Agency. These will need careful consideration and input on the impacts to the environment and what supporting infrastructure will be needed, which again could deliver much needed economic benefit to our Island nation.

The necessity for improving Guernsey's infrastructure, including on-Island transportation and public services, to enhance our lives is essential. I will build on the commitments made in my most recent and previous manifesto. Infrastructure projects are vital for our economic growth and will create new opportunities for businesses and residents alike. I am committed to ensuring that these developments are carried out sustainably and with the input of our community.



1315 Additionally, I fully support the Bridge Regeneration Project, including the interim flood defence and development at Leale's Yard. This initiative is crucial for revitalising the area, boosting local businesses and improving it. By investing in the Bridge, we can create a vibrant, thriving hub that benefits everyone in our community.

1320 The newly formed Housing Committee will need collaboration with E&I. I am happy, as Deputy de Sausmarez said, I am a nice guy, I can get on with pretty much everyone, and I will ensure that collaboration with those members of that Committee occurs on a regular basis. Indeed, in terms of collaboration, I would see deeper connection and more frequent interactions with the Committee for Economic Development and the States' Trading Supervisory Board.

1325 In the current economic climate, both environment and infrastructure have a vital role to play as enablers, for that is what they are. The path to net zero will deliver co-benefits to the Islands, Islanders, the environment and its economy, if we get it right. We have seen some of the benefits already in areas such as green finance, eco-tourism, renewable energy, sustainable farming, and soon to be realised in the blue economy with the pool marina project.

1330 The Fiscal Policy Panel's report stated that under-investment in infrastructure is at a critical level. It is essential that we increase this investment to meet our target of at least 2% of GDP. Historically, the States of Guernsey has not done so for a significant period and this must be accelerated, within our means of course, to ensure that we capitalise on the direct economic benefits it creates.

Infrastructure is an interesting part of the E&I mandate. The policy side of it and the joined-up working between Committees to deliver that infrastructure commitment can be a challenge, but of course it will be essential. Again, if elected, that will be a key aim for me.

1335 Stakeholder or community input needs to continue and indeed increase in the preliminary stages of any infrastructure improvements. While the policies agree the general premise, they do not agree any operational practices and these are so important to get correct. We need to take the community with us on these journeys and the community will help determine those outcomes.

1340 Our biodiversity is important in so many ways. As I said, it supports our economy and its loss is one of the most disruptive and most likely the greatest risk to our economy, more than we know. We must continue to walk that walk, especially where our green finance credentials are concerned.

1345 The post-Brexit fallout continues to have an impact on our sanitary and phytosanitary measures and these revised requirements and procedures that we have implemented to protect human, animal or plant life against certain risks such as foot and mouth disease and avian flu are another area of the E&I mandate that intercepts with the Home Affairs Committee, who control our borders and the security of supply of essential commodities. As a member of the previous Committee and having been party to relevant conversations for most of the term, I am well enough briefed to take on this aspect of the E&I presidential role.

1350 My style is that of a transparent and open leader, fostering a culture of trust and one who wants others to succeed and contribute to the whole. Communications are essential in any role and I will encourage open dialogue. Community engagement is essential too and I would like to work much more closely with our Douzaines who have the direct connection with the people of Guernsey.

1355 Members, I thank you for your time and indulgence. I will be pleased to have your vote as I have the relevant knowledge and experience to lead E&I. I have demonstrated that I know the mandate well enough to step up and lead the new Committee and to help it find its way around the huge mandate that is E&I and create an environment to facilitate decision making.

Thank you.

1360 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Gabriel, your 10 minutes are up. So, once again, there is a single candidate for the presidency of the Committee *for the Environment & Infrastructure*. That is Deputy Gabriel, proposed by Deputy de Sausmarez and seconded by Deputy St Pier. If you wish to support his nomination, then please write his name on a sheet of paper and the Sheriff will collect your voting slips. Are there any more voting slips to be handed to the Sheriff?

**Committee for Employment & Social Security –  
Deputy Tina Bury elected as President**

1365 **The Bailiff:** Let me declare the result of the election of the President of the Committee for  
Employment & Social Security. There was a single candidate, Deputy Bury, proposed by  
Deputy de Sausmarez and seconded by Deputy St Pier, and she received 37 votes. There were no  
spoiled papers, there were two blank papers, and therefore I will declare her duly elected to that  
office. *(Applause)*  
1370 Next Item please.

**5. Committee for Health & Social Care –  
Election of President commenced**

*Article 5.*

*The States are asked:*

*To elect a sitting Member of the States as President of the Committee for Health & Social Care to  
serve until 30th June 2029 in accordance with Rule 16 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of  
Deliberation as set out in Section 1 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their  
Committees.*

**The States' Greffier:** Article 5, Election of the President of the Committee for Health & Social  
Care.

1375 **The Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier.

**Deputy St Pier:** You were clearly presuming, sir. Sir, I wish to nominate Deputy George Oswald.

1380 **The Bailiff:** Okay, Deputy Oswald.  
Is that nomination seconded?

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** Yes, sir.

1385 **The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.  
Are there any other nominations for the presidency of the Committee for Health & Social Care?  
No. In that case, I will invite Deputy St Pier to speak to the nomination of Deputy Oswald.  
Deputy St Pier, please.

1390 **Deputy St Pier:** Mr Presiding Officer, Deputy George Oswald is a retired medical specialist as a  
member and fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. He was a founding member of the Medical  
Specialist Group and served two consecutive terms as its Chair. He retired in 2019 and he has been  
a non-voting member of the Committee for Health & Social Care until the general election.

1395 During that term, he had many sub-delegated roles, including drafting and agreeing a code of  
practice for guidance on integrating off-Island care for a group of young people with poorly-  
understood clinical conditions with local provision. This is a very difficult and sensitive subject, which  
required careful handling with all stakeholders, and he successfully navigated that tricky path. He  
also participated in the primary care review process before it was suspended.

1400 Although Deputy Oswald gave up his licence to practice when he retired, he remains registered  
with the General Medical Council, which means he remains subject to professional standards of

behaviour. No doubt, like a few others in this States, I first met Deputy Oswald as a patient. He cannot disclose that but I can. I saw him through the prism of that doctor-patient relationship.

1405 When I was elected to join the Committee *for* Health & Social Care last year, following the vacancy created by Deputy Bury, it is fair to say that I really did not know what to expect from him as a non-voting member of that Committee. Sir, he has subsequently admitted to me that he was also very wary of me, given the high-profile public position which I had taken on behalf of constituents with concerns in relation to some aspects of secondary healthcare. So I am deeply honoured that he has asked me to nominate him for this position.

1410 It is fair to say that I very quickly came to respect him and to respect him highly. I have witnessed his professionalism, independence and impartiality. He has demonstrated his willingness to challenge and question but always in a respectful and courteous way. He is reflective and thoughtful rather than knee-jerk or impulsive. He is led by evidence rather than emotion.

1415 He has described himself in the general election as a technocrat. This seems to be a much-derided term in modern democratic politics outside the Island. However, it is a term which speaks to a level of technical expertise which enables the individual to make informed challenge. This is almost certainly why he was chosen to be a non-voting member of the last Committee.

1420 But it is also why, having eschewed any political role and not sought the political limelight until this election, this States should regard itself as fortunate that he decided to stand and the electorate saw fit to elect him. It enables us to access at a political level the technical expertise to enable informed challenge, which, frankly, the rest of us lack in this area of the States' responsibilities.

1425 Deputy Oswald has stood as a self-professed and self-effacing technocrat on a healthcare-led manifesto brimming with policy ideas precisely to offer up his skills and experience to this Committee. We would be foolish in the extreme not to seize in this moment the opportunity it presents for the rest of us as a Government to have our largest-spending Committee led by someone with relevant experience. I commend him to the States and urge all Members to elect Deputy Oswald as the President of the Committee *for* Health & Social Care.

**The Bailiff:** Thank you very much. I will now invite Deputy Oswald to speak to his candidature. Deputy Oswald, please.

1430 **Deputy Oswald:** Sir, fellow Deputies, I am honoured to have been nominated by Deputy St Pier and seconded by Deputy de Sausmarez to lead the HSC Committee into the new term.

1435 You may ask, how could I have had the temerity to suggest that this should be my role in the States, coming as I do as a relative political novice to head up the largest organisation within the control of this Assembly, to become political head of an organisation with over 2,000 employees and with a budget of 40% of total States' expenditure?

1440 I am not coming to you just as the doctor who will run HSC. I am coming to you as a unifier and deliverer of services with across-the-board backing from our workforce. My mandate consisted to a large part of healthcare providers, be it States or from our contracted partners. This ranged from a marvellous lady, a long-term stalwart of the canteen staff at the PEH, who asked me for extra posters to put up at her residence, through to senior members of the nursing and medical staff, right up to high-level providers, both in the public sector and with our contracted partners.

1445 Some Deputies may have thought that I am too close to Health to objectively manage it. If too close means the backing and confidence of our States' staff and our contracted partners, then they could be right. If too close means, however, inappropriate support or favouritism to one side or the other of our disparate providers, then they could not be more wrong. I remain a professional and will use professional objectivism to come to the correct and appropriate decisions. My track record supports this.

1450 Sitting Deputies, aspiring candidates and many voters asked me to stand for leadership of HSC. If I had not put myself forward for this, I would have let down those who gave me my mandate. The support and encouragement of our staff and our contracted partners, together with the HSC Committee I intend to build, will be essential when facing the difficult decisions we have to make

during the next term. The Committee will hopefully comprise both experienced politicians and newly-elected Deputies, working with the support of officers whose capacities and capabilities I have come to know and recognise as second to none over the past four years in my role as a non-voting member.

I have always been a team worker. In my manifesto, I pointed out the role of the multidisciplinary team in making important and difficult decisions in the clinical field. I see the States as an exemplar of this model and I see what could be achieved with joined-up thinking and working. Close working with our colleagues on ESS should enable us to apply a new model of medical provision to some of the most disadvantaged members of our community, better to meet their specific needs outside of standard medical care and at greater efficiency for them and the States' provision.

We will pick up the primary care review again, aware that we must not throw the baby out with the bathwater, but ensure that our provision in primary care matches up to best practice elsewhere. Tackling such irritants as blocks to long-standing repeat prescriptions is one such example of work needed. I have history here in that I negotiated and introduced an insulin passport system when lead of the local diabetes service to tackle just this issue. This is a potential model for further rollout in other chronic conditions.

Previous medicine amnesties carried out locally whereby health service users can return unwanted, unused medication without fear of arrest have revealed literally mountains of unused pills, doled out on a regular basis at great cost to the States. The literature shows that only a third of all patients taking more than three medications take their medication only 30% of the time. A greater role for the high street pharmacies in both simple medical advice, review of prescriptions, advice on deprescribing, that is ensuring patients are taking only those medications that are necessary, and a supply of repeat scripts is essential. I will bring on to the HSC team those with appropriate experience in developing this sector for the benefit of all.

The NHS measures productivity. We do not. NHS figures are particularly awful. We have some indications of what our figures may look like but we do not really know. Cuts in health budgets among other proposed savings elsewhere have been advocated by some. Whatever happens in the face of burgeoning need, we need to try and control costs while providing a service under pressure. To improve productivity may require pump-priming. But if the long-term outcome is potential savings to the States, this is an argument I will make.

One potential example of this is the rollout of the new anti-obesity drugs as a preventive health measure. The Tony Blair Institute has forecast that extending this class of drugs to a wider public could save the NHS literally billions of pounds. A short term improvement in the reduction of virtually all health risks in those who are categorised as obese with the highest preventable risk of long-term ill health is impressive. I would wish to see that by the end of my term of office we would have an established tier 3 obesity service in place with extension of its scope into the wider community as appropriate as the evidence base from elsewhere gets stronger.

We will also institute an add-on metric to measure changes in employment practice in those in the programme looking for a measurable indicator of savings. Such an Island-wide programme could act as an exemplar for other jurisdictions.

More generally, I do not preclude looking at alternative methods of funding healthcare. We can perhaps learn from other jurisdictions, all of whom are facing the same challenges. Indemnity insurance for both States-employed clinicians and those working with our contracted partners is very costly. In secondary care, these costs are borne by the taxpayer. We need to progress discussions with specialist insurance providers in the captive field, seeking a local provision without putting at risk the insurance cover of colleagues. I would endeavour to place a Member on the HSC Committee with experience working with this sector. The discount rate which applies to the settlements received by those with major injuries deemed by the courts to have resulted from medical mismanagement are currently set on this Island at a much higher rate than elsewhere. Though we have been promised action on this matter, nothing seems to have happened. I will press for early resolution of this issue.

1505 We need to bring in measures to ensure active life expectancy is increased as much as possible. Guernsey's active life expectancy regrettably lags behind those of our neighbours. We all face a grim reaper at some point and maximum expenditure on healthcare in the final few years of life is an inevitable end. But if we can defer that stage, this has the potential for significant savings. The rollout of anti-obesity medication is an illustration of what could be achieved but we must also continue the valued work of the Health Improvement Commission in early intervention programmes.

1510 Stage 2 of the hospital modernisation project is based on a design and needs requirement which was drawn up at least five years ago. The value engineering report commissioned after the black hole in the budget provision was discovered reduced the anticipated costs of phase 2 back into the envelope supported by the States, but at the cost of dividing the project into a 2A and 2B model. 1515 The Value Engineering Report advocated a robust clinical challenge essentially now and before progression to ensure that what we have planned for is still appropriate for our changing needs and at this time a financial challenge. This process is urgent and needs political lead, a role I am more than willing to take on. This should also incorporate lessons being learnt from the final stages of build of stage 1, delays and delivery of which has inevitably entered the public domain.

1520 We cannot forget the demographic time bomb that is coming our way and, together with ESS, the SLAWS programme in full needs to be brought back for debate at the earliest opportunity. This will bring further difficult decisions to the forefront.

But neither can we forget the other end of the age spectrum, our 16 to 24-year-olds, particularly young women whose mental health appears disproportionately affected. There is a long-term potential for this not only to impede their life chances but to put an extra burden on to the States. 1525 I see any early intervention programme we initiate as perfect for the third sector. We already have some projects in this area. They are far more accessible to young people than Big Brother States and commissioning such work should be an early priority.

Along similar lines, in association with the Education Department, I will support any community-initiated effort to reduce exposure of our young children to smartphone technology, as exemplified through the Smartphone-Free Childhood Campaign. 1530

In conclusion, I bring to the role of HSC lead, enthusiasm, commitment, knowledge, a new way of thinking and leading, together with the support and active encouragement of our workforce, be it contracted or States supplied. I do not belittle the difficulties and challenges of the task and know 1535 there will be uncomfortable times ahead. I see the HSC lead as a natural progression of my medical career having gone through training, accreditation, successful completion of a high research degree, arrival on this Island, which has been my home for the last 40 years, and my subsequent provider of service. I am now ready to take on the equally challenging role of poacher turned gamekeeper, the Deputy who with his team has to deliver for the population of this Island.

1540 I thank you for your support. (*Applause*)

**The Bailiff:** Members of the States, there is a single candidate for the presidency of the Committee *for* Health & Social Care, that is Deputy Oswald, who has been proposed by Deputy St Pier and seconded by Deputy de Sausmarez. If you wish to support his nomination, please 1545 write his name on your voting slip. Are there any more voting slips to pass to the Sheriff?

**Committee *for* the Environment & Infrastructure –  
Deputy Adrian Gabriel elected as President**

**The Bailiff:** Let me declare the results of the election of the President of the Committee *for* the Environment & Infrastructure. There was a single candidate, Deputy Gabriel, proposed by Deputy de Sausmarez, seconded by Deputy St Pier. He received 35 votes, there was one spoiled paper and 1550 there were two blank papers. I therefore declare him duly elected to that office. (*Applause*)

**6. Committee for Home Affairs –  
Election of President commenced**

*Article 6.*

*The States are asked:*

*To elect a sitting Member of the States as President of the Committee for Home Affairs to serve until 30th June 2029 in accordance with Rule 16 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation as set out in Section 1 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees.*

**The States' Greffier:** Article 6, Election of the President of the Committee for Home Affairs.

1555 **The Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier.

**Deputy St Pier:** Sir, I wish to nominate Deputy Leadbeater.

1560 **The Bailiff:** Thank you very much. Is that nomination seconded?

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** Yes, it is, sir.

1565 **The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.  
Are there any other nominations for the presidency?  
Deputy McKenna.

**Deputy McKenna:** Yes, sir. Deputy Vermeulen.

1570 **The Bailiff:** Is Deputy Vermeulen's nomination seconded?

**Deputy Niles:** Seconded.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Niles. Anyone else?

1575 **Deputy Rochester:** I would like to nominate Deputy Jayne Ozanne.

**The Bailiff:** Is Deputy Ozanne's nomination seconded?

1580 **Deputy Rylatt:** Yes, it is, sir.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Rylatt. Are there any more candidates? What we could do is we could have the speeches from the candidates and then adjourn for lunch and have questions after lunch, because if we continue with the questions, potentially you will not be getting an outcome until close to half past one.

1585 So what I am going to propose therefore is that we invite the three candidates to come up here in the order in which they were nominated. So Deputy Leadbeater, Deputy Vermeulen and Deputy Ozanne. We will have the speeches and then we will adjourn for lunch and then we will have questions after lunch. Are you content with that Members?

1590 *It was agreed.*

**The Bailiff:** Excellent, thank you.

That is what we will do. So can the three of them please come up? Spread out if you want to.

Members of the States, what I am going to do is I am going to invite Deputy St Pier first to speak  
1595 for up to five minutes about Deputy Leadbeater.

Deputy St Pier, please. *(Laughter)*

**Deputy St Pier:** So much excitement. I have not had that reception for many years. *(Laughter)*

1600 **The Bailiff:** This is using up your five minutes.

**Deputy St Pier:** I am enjoying it too much, sir.

Sir, after the last general election, Deputy Leadbeater asked me to nominate him to be a member  
1605 of the Committee *for* Home Affairs, notwithstanding that he had not been one of the President's  
candidates. I have never forgotten that he asked me to nominate him despite my having limited  
credibility in the States at that time. We certainly were not having rounds of applause at that point.  
I was as honoured then as I am now that he should ask me to nominate him on behalf of the Policy  
& Resources Committee to be the President of the Committee *for* Home Affairs.

Continuity or change? Change or continuity? That is the choice that the electorate arguably  
1610 voted for and that is arguably the choice before the States in this election this morning. In  
Deputy Leadbeater, in this election, you can have both. A rare opportunity to have your cake and  
eat it. A candidate who represents change from the last term but a candidate too who has  
experience of the Committee and its mandate.

For new Members of the States who may not know, and for existing Members it is worth  
1615 reminding, that Deputy Leadbeater has previously been the Vice-President of the Committee *for*  
Home Affairs. He served on the Committee for four years from 2016 to 2020 and he was elected as  
a Committee member in 2020 from the floor, having not been the then President's choice.

I argued successfully that we should not dump that experience so readily and I argue that again  
that this experience now warrants his election as President. During his prior service on the  
1620 Committee, he helped build relationships with the service chiefs and support staff. He developed  
an in-depth knowledge of the population management regime and he developed a full  
understanding of the Committee's mandate. This is a candidate who can hit the ground running in  
relation to the Committee's work.

During the last term, Deputy Leadbeater was one of the few Deputies who was willing to engage  
1625 and listen to those who had concerns about the police complaints processes, which it has  
subsequently been accepted are in need of reform, building the confidence of those in the  
community who have reasonable concerns.

Having sat on the Committee *for* Health & Social Care with Deputy Leadbeater for the last  
15 months or so, I have witnessed him at close quarters as the President of that Committee. I have  
1630 seen him deputise for the President in Committee meetings and with the media. I have seen him  
challenge, appropriately, officers and advice. Having done so, I have no hesitation in recommending  
that he has the experience, skill and temperament to step up to be the President of the Committee  
*for* Home Affairs and I do encourage Members to support him in this election.

Thank you, sir.

1635 **The Bailiff:** Now I will invite Deputy Leadbeater to speak for up to 10 minutes about his  
candidature.

**Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, sir.

1640 I rise to express my wish to serve as President of the Committee *for* Home Affairs, a Committee  
I know well, care deeply about, and believe I am best placed to lead. Many of you will remember  
that during my first term as Deputy I served on Home throughout, the last two years of that term  
as Vice President.

I worked on the Brexit sub-group, responding to Home Office decisions and making preparations for the exit of the UK from Europe and the consequent fall away of Protocol 3. It was a very important role, encompassing issues involving the movement of all goods and people. It was my first Committee role and it left a lasting impression. I worked on the early preparations for Moneyval and also on the domestic abuse and sexual violence work that concluded during the last term. Years of work went into those workstreams; years of work.

I joined the Committee with an open mind, but I left it with a firm sense of mission. The work we do on Home Affairs, supporting our emergency services, ensuring community safety, upholding justice and the rule of law, is not just essential Government business, it is the backbone of a civilised and stable society.

We owe a duty of care to the professionals who serve under Home Affairs. Our police, our Fire and Rescue Service, our Border Agency, our Prison Service, Probation and Community Service, Family Proceedings Advisory Service, Gambling Control, Liquor Licensing, Trading Standards, Data Protection and Population Management. These are dedicated individuals, often working in high-pressure situations, who deserve political leadership that listens, understands, provides strong strategic direction, and backs them. I will provide that leadership.

At the beginning of last term, I wanted to return to Home Affairs. I wanted to lead on a review of our Population Management Law. I wanted to make good progress on the recommendations of the Justice Review. As pointed out by Deputy St Pier, it is no secret that I was not wanted back on Home Affairs by the President last term, but I stood from the floor to try and crow bar myself back on to the Committee that I was invested in.

Back in 2020, I was proposed and seconded by Deputies St Pier and Le Tocq, respectively. After staking my claim via a speech in this Assembly, I secured enough votes to return and serve on Home Affairs once more. But, unfortunately, my election to the Committee and role on it was short-lived. I was not allowed to lead on population management, I was not allowed to have any involvement whatsoever on the justice work. The then President allocated an area of the Committee mandate to each member apart from me. My skills and expertise were not welcome and that was being made completely clear. So I stood down to concentrate on HSC where I was wanted and I was welcomed.

My knowledge and experience was used wisely by Deputy Brouard and I ended up taking on a very different but equally vital role as Vice-President of the Committee *for* Health & Social Care. I am proud of what we achieved there, particularly pushing forward our response to the mental health challenges we face by rolling out our new Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, also opening the new nine bed de Havilland Ward, dedicated solely to orthopaedics, helping us reduce waiting lists, and also supporting our hard-working, frontline health professionals through unprecedented times.

But more than that, serving on HSC broadened my perspective. It showed me that issues like mental health, addiction, domestic violence and social disadvantage cannot be neatly boxed into one Committee. They have implications right across Government, including Home Affairs. That is one of the key reasons I want to return to Home now, to connect the dots. Because crime prevention, early intervention and community safety do not start and end in a courtroom. They begin in the home, in schools, in social settings.

Tackling re-offending and recidivism is not just about tougher penalties, it is about meaningful rehabilitation and giving people a chance to build a better life. Combating domestic abuse is not just about the justice system, it is about support networks, protection and education. We need a joined-up approach and I believe I can bring that. I bring not only prior experience of Home Affairs, but a fresh understanding of health and social policy and the interdependencies that are far too often overlooked.

But let us not forget, the world has changed since I first served on Home Affairs. We face new threats, online crime, cybersecurity risks, the rise in scams and fraud, the pressures of immigration and border control, all in a challenging fiscal environment. Our emergency services are being asked to do more with less. We cannot pretend that the solutions of yesterday will solve the problems of tomorrow. We need strategic leadership that is decisive, collaborative and forward thinking.



If elected as President, my priorities would include supporting frontline services, listening to the concerns of our uniformed services, working with them, not above them, to ensure they have the resources, training and political direction and support they need to keep the Bailiwick safe. Focusing on prevention, investing in early interventions that reduce long-term harm, particularly in areas like youth offending, drug and alcohol dependency and domestic abuse. These issues do not just affect victims and perpetrators, they affect families, communities and the long-term sustainability of our public services. Strengthening justice and rehabilitation, ensuring that our criminal justice system is fair, effective and up-to-date with modern challenges. This includes prison reform where necessary, restorative justice where appropriate, and strong partnerships with the third sector.

I will prioritise reform as recommended by the Justice Review. I will seek to introduce electronic tagging in order to keep low-level offenders out of prison and in work so they can keep contributing to society and supporting their families. I will reform our DBS system to align it with those of our neighbouring jurisdictions, ensuring parity for our ex-offenders and giving them a level platform when seeking employment or simple things like a bank account or car insurance. Promoting transparency and trust, maintaining public confidence in the rule of law, in the integrity of our institutions and in the fairness of our policies. That is a constant job and I take it seriously.

We must reform our Police Complaints Law, which is a piece of work that has remained on the back burner for far too long. If we are to reinstate total public confidence we must not shy away from reforming how complaints against our officers are handled.

Five, ensuring Guernsey's security in a changing world, working closely with national and international partners to tackle evolving threats, whether that is online fraud, cyberattacks or organised crime. Above all, I want to be a practical, honest and responsive leader, someone who gets things done, not just talks about it.

Some might ask why go back, why return to a Committee you have already served on? Well the answer is simple, because even though I was compelled to leave I never lost my passion for Home Affairs. I believe the experience I have gained since, particularly in Health & Social Care, gives me a wider lens, a sharper edge, and a stronger ability to lead. This is not about nostalgia, it is about readiness, and I am ready. I know the Committee, I know the culture, I know the pressures, and I know how to get things done collaboratively, respectfully and with accountability.

Sir, I ask Members for their support, not just to return to Home Affairs but to help lead it into its next chapter.

Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** I will now invite Deputy McKenna, the proposer of Deputy Vermeulen, to speak about Deputy Vermeulen.

Deputy McKenna, please.

**Deputy McKenna:** Thank you, sir.

It is my pleasure and honour to propose Deputy Simon Vermeulen for the role of President of the Committee for Home Affairs. Over the course of the last Assembly, Deputy Vermeulen has served with diligence, integrity and commitment as the Vice-President of Home. He has been a key figure in steering some of the most complex and sensitive portfolios under the Home Affairs mandate, from justice and law enforcement to immigration, Moneyval, financial crime and domestic abuse legislation, including establishing a sexual assault referral centre, and in each of these areas he has demonstrated not only attention to detail but a deep sense of duty to the people of Guernsey.

This is a crucial time for the Home Affairs Committee where we must maintain a public confidence in our justice system, ensure our Island is safe and secure and support our emergency services and help shape the kind of community that we all want to live in. We want to be safe, inclusive and resilient. Deputy Vermeulen understands all of this and he does not seek this role lightly, he does so with experience and with vision and with the humility to know that leadership is not always about being right but about bringing people with you.

Under his watch as Vice-President, the Committee progressed meaningful work around the domestic abuse legislation. He supported the resilience of our frontline services and maintained the strong reputation of Guernsey as a co-operative jurisdiction. Yet he will be the first to tell you there is still so much to do, and no one person can do it alone, which is why I believe Deputy Vermeulen is the right choice for this presidency because he will be a leader who will listen. He welcomes challenge, not as confrontation but as a vital part of good governance. He has consistently shown a great willingness to collaborate across all Committees, recognising that things do not happen in silos.

Deputy Vermeulen's background prior to joining the States saw him spend his professional life in hospitality, managing a very large business, and leading a diverse, successful team. That experience navigating will help us in a new housing and immigration legislation and Deputy Vermeulen will preview all the works that we need to do in the Committee and will do so with diligence. He respects the views of his colleagues, even when they differ from his own, and he is not afraid to change his mind when presented with better evidence or a stronger argument. That is the kind of leadership we need; principled, pragmatic and people-focused. Deputy Vermeulen is not seeking this position for prestige. He is seeking to serve, to build on the work already done, and to lead a capable Committee with clarity, compassion and a great conviction.

Sir, I commend to you and ask every Deputy for their support in appointing Deputy Simon Vermeulen as the President of the Committee *for* Home Affairs.

**The Bailiff:** Thank you very much and now I will invite Deputy Vermeulen to speak for up to 10 minutes about his candidature.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** Thank you to Deputy McKenna for your proposal and to Deputy Niles for seconding me.

In the spirit of democracy and following through on my election promises, I am standing for the President of Home. I fully embrace collaboration but I also believe it is important for those in this Assembly to have a choice. I believe in the importance of public service and I believe I have the experience, the judgement, the impartiality and the team spirit to lead the Committee *for* Home Affairs through this new term.

Having served as Vice-President over the past four and a half years, I have had a front row seat to both the opportunities and the challenges that come with the mandate. I appreciate the electorate voted for change, but they also voted for continuity and Home is a Department where a certain level of consistency and professionalism is needed. Only Deputy McKenna and myself remain in the Assembly this term.

The majority of the work Home does, does not always make the headlines. When Home is doing its job well, we enjoy something most places take for granted until it is gone; safety and stability. We cannot underestimate how vital the work Home does that is the backbone of Island life, but also of our economy. I will not repeat my proposer's speech, but significant milestone pieces of legislation were brought to the Assembly by the previous Committee. One of the most significant successes was Guernsey passing Moneyval. Our memories can be short, but these achievements should not go forgotten. Whether it is ensuring our blue light services are properly resourced, supporting law enforcement, progressing work on the Justice Review or protecting the vulnerable through safeguarding and domestic abuse legislation, the Committee *for* Home Affairs is there at some of the most crucial parts of Island community life.

That work is not glamorous, but it is essential and it needs consistent, calm and collaborative leadership. I am not here to make any grand promises or bring in sweeping change for the sake of it. I am here because I truly believe in building on the solid foundations that have already been laid. I believe in continuing the work we have started thoughtfully, steadily and in partnership with others. I do not pretend to have all the answers. Good leadership, in my view, means welcoming challenge. It means listening not just to those who agree with you, but especially to those who do

not. It means creating a space where Committee Members can speak freely, question direction and help shape the path forward. That is the kind of environment I would foster.

If appointed as President, my focus would be on continuity where it matters, on fresh energy where it is needed, and a clear-eyed view of the difficult issues ahead, from progressing police complaints legislation, to balancing immigration and obligations to the growing demands on our emergency services.

But I will also bring compassion to the role. At its heart, Home is about people and the policies we shape affect real lives. I am not afraid of challenge and I would welcome non-States' Members on to my Committee to provide this challenge or experts from different areas where we may need more in-depth knowledge. For example, Poppy Murray from SafetyNet. We need to be prepared to learn from individuals working extensively in areas that fall under Home's mandate. For example, the People's Trust. We need to engage with groups who challenge but maintain good governance and impartiality. There are key issues on the horizon and I am an impartial individual. I do not have any interests or shareholders in business that relate to Home's mandate and I have a track record of finishing what I started. I completed a full term on both of the Committees I sat on during the previous Assembly. The people voted for change and I support this. But we also need continuity and collaborative approach representing a cross-section of this Assembly.

This is a responsibility I take seriously and it would be a privilege to continue serving in this space, this time as President, supported by a strong and engaged Committee.

Thank you for your consideration and your support.

**The Bailiff:** I now invite the proposer of Deputy Ozanne, Deputy Rochester, to speak about Deputy Ozanne.

Deputy Rochester, please.

**Deputy Rochester:** Thank you, sir.

I stand to propose Deputy Ozanne as President of the Home Affairs Committee. Deputy Ozanne campaigned for election on a promise to create a fairer Guernsey and she wanted to do that by three ways: re-establishing the social contract in Guernsey, creating equal opportunity and increasing our resilience. Taking the lead of the Home Affairs Committee will enable her to play a significant part in delivering on that promise.

The Committee for Home Affairs exists to support a high standard of living and quality of life by maintaining and promoting a safe, stable and equitable society. A society that values public protection, justice but also respects the rights, responsibilities and potential of every person in our community. In short, the Committee must meaningfully contribute to a safe, fair and equal society. In an increasingly polarised community, with greater social inequality than any of us would wish for, strong, experienced, fair and empathetic leadership is what is required. I know those are qualities that Deputy Ozanne will bring to the role if she is given the opportunity to lead.

For me, the leader of any Committee needs to be crystal clear about the Committee's objectives, understand the means by which they can be achieved and make effective use of all resources available to them. Deputy Ozanne has demonstrated that she has a deep understanding of the importance of equality, safety and human rights through her extensive international leadership for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community in the religious domain.

Deputy Ozanne has professional experience in both marketing and change management that she is able to draw on to support the Committee in delivering on their objectives. Deputy Ozanne has not only relied on campaigning to achieve those goals, but has committed herself to academic studies and research, notably as the first UK national at Oxford University's Foreign Service Programme, where she learned the international diplomacy skills to ensure she was effective in her role.

In summary, Deputy Ozanne is a candidate that has demonstrated leadership, collaboration and a willingness to draw on all available resources to deliver on her goals, and deliver she has. While she comes to the States as a first-time Deputy, I think it would be foolish to overlook her experience

working with government in the UK and leading committees, charities and non-profit organisations to many successful outcomes. It has been a privilege to get to know this kind-hearted, intelligent and very determined lady over the last few weeks and I propose her because those values will be crucial to delivering on an incredibly broad remit which ranges from domestic violence to population management and online safety.

Sir, with her diligence, vision and values, Deputy Ozanne has the skills to lead this Committee through a successful next term and I recommend her candidacy to the States.

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

I will now invite Deputy Ozanne to speak to her candidature.

Deputy Ozanne, please.

**Deputy Ozanne:** I appreciate it may seem quite presumptuous of me, a newbie, to seek to lead this principal Committee at a time when it is facing some significant challenges. I do so knowing that there is much to learn. But if I may, I would like to set out why I believe my experience makes me a strong contender for this role, before setting out my vision and priorities for a Committee whose mandate is, and I quote:

To maintain and promote a safe, stable, and equitable society which values public protection and justice and respects the rights, responsibilities, and potential of every person.

That is quite an aim. For my part, it resonates closely with the platform I stood on, a fairer Guernsey for all, where they can thrive, feel equally valued and respected. As Deputy Rochester has highlighted, I set out three core priority areas to deliver this, all of which sit within the Home Affairs mandate, and that is why I am keen to be considered for this role. I believe my USP – that is my unique selling point – is that I am keen to bring a fresh approach to this mandate by actively seeking to combine social policy with justice, to best serve all Islanders.

On a macro level, I want to ensure an Island that is resilient and able to meet the emerging threats of the 21st century. Yet on a micro level, I want every Islander to feel safe, secure and confident in living their lives to the full, free of fear or prejudice.

But first, why me? Can I really do this job? Well, I may be new to this Chamber but I am not new to matters relating to Home Affairs, nor to working in parliamentary systems, along with dedicated civil servants. I would suggest that any President of Home Affairs requires five core attributes. Firstly, someone who is comfortable with highly technical and detailed briefs, including complex financial and research data. Sir, many may know that my first degree was in mathematics at Cambridge, so I love data. I have also led various major research projects in my international business career and in the third sector, and currently a research fellow at Regents Park, Oxford, where I have just had a paper published by the Oxford Law Journal on the abuse of litigation to undermine human rights.

That leads me directly to my second attribute, an understanding of the criminal law, justice and security systems. I have been working in the field of human rights for some time, which has taken me from addressing the UN Human Rights Council to studying international law at Oxford University. I am currently training to be a barrister with a long-term goal of becoming an advocate here in Guernsey. I should perhaps also add I spent a year researching the nature of the UK and US intelligence relationship when I was a research study fellow at Oxford in 2006, so I do understand a little bit about security systems.

Thirdly, I believe the candidate needs to have an ability to represent the Island internationally, working with Deputy Le Tocq on matters to do with border security, cyber security and, of course, Moneyval. I am more than able to hold my own in these situations given my extensive work in international relations, which has brought me into direct contact with many senior international stakeholders. I was fortunate to live in Paris for several years too, and so speak French, albeit a bit rusty.

1900 Fourthly, any candidate must have a track record of working well with their civil servants in order  
to deliver change, and also be familiar with parliamentary processes. While I am obviously new here  
to this in Guernsey, I have spent time meeting many of those involved in the Home mandate here,  
from our new Chief of Police to our Children's Convener, and from those involved in delivering  
Moneyval, to those working in Trading Standards. I have spent over 15 years working with the  
1905 Church of England's Civil Service, most notably when I was appointed as a founding member of the  
Archbishop's Council, and as such I sat on the Board for Social Responsibility, and was later elected  
to the Mission and Public Affairs Council, both of which had Home Affairs-style mandates.

More recently I have worked as an adviser to the UK and Welsh governments, and as such spent  
many years working with staff in the Cabinet Office, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development  
1910 Office, and the Women and Quality Secretariat. I am very familiar with parliamentary processes,  
both in Westminster and the Church of England where I have brought Private Members' motions,  
which are very similar to our requêtes, and worked on other core legislation. Now there are  
obviously notable differences, and I do get that, but I am keen to stress that there are also many  
similarities.

1915 Finally, the candidate must, I believe, be able to chair. This I have frequently done from groups  
of parliamentarians to charring groups of over 100 stakeholders in the coalition I set up to change  
the Law on conversion practices.

Despite all this, I recognise I will have a steep learning curve if I am fortunate to secure this brief.  
As a strategic consultant, I am used to hitting the ground running, and for me the key is building  
1920 relationships of trust with all key stakeholders as they know where the challenges and the answers  
often lie. Indeed, my leadership style is to work in partnership, where all opinions are valued and  
heard, and I am keen to ensure we do not reinvent wheels and will always look to learn from others.

I would seek a mix of those with experience and fresh new voices to build a team with our senior  
Home Affairs colleagues. So what do I see as the core challenges for Home Affairs? We know from  
1925 Island Global Research that 30% of Islanders see crime, law and immigration as important issues.  
However, we also know that nearly half, 48%, in the lowest financial quartile, are dissatisfied with  
the police, compared to just 16% in the upper financial quartile. The recent Social Capital Report  
identified these deepening social divides as a major threat. Importantly, it is also highlighted that  
there is a perception that the law and advocacy support is out of reach for many members of our  
1930 society.

One of Guernsey's unique selling points is that it is basically a very safe place. However, we  
cannot escape the fact that there is a darkening underbelly which, if we do not address, will become  
a significant problem for us. We have a growing rate of sexual offences in Guernsey, although  
according to police statistics only about 15% of sexual offences are reported. The other elephant in  
1935 the room is, sadly, the growing tensions around immigration policy and noticeable rise in racism,  
fuelled by those with far-right leanings. These are problems that most Western democracies are  
having to face, but we too need to name and own them so we can address them.

My priorities would therefore focus around, firstly, safeguarding the vulnerable; particularly  
women and girls. Ninety-seven per cent of women in both Jersey and the UK have experienced  
1940 sexual harassment, and I would suggest the figure in Guernsey is no different. I recognise the key  
work that has been done to secure domestic abuse legislation, but I fear we need to go far further.  
Violence against women and girls is not confined to the home. Indeed, according to the UN Special  
Rapporteur, it is a national threat. Sadly, smaller jurisdictions are often magnets for sex offenders.  
We must, therefore, look to ensure we have adequate safeguards.

1945 Secondly, increasing our resilience to meet 21st century threats. The world is changing fast,  
particularly with AI and so, therefore, are the threats that we face, particularly in financial and  
cybercrime.

Thirdly, rebuilding on our social contract, which means rebuilding trust with Islanders in our core  
institutions of Government. I commend the work of our new Chief of Police and what he is doing  
1950 here, but there is still much to do with our police complaints and justice systems, particularly  
reviewing sentencing guidelines.

Fourthly, growing at a sustainable rate, which means looking again at our population policy for which there seems much appetite in this Chamber.

1955 Finally, and crucially, maintaining a sense of cultural identity in a globalised world. This too was highlighted by the Social Impact Report. Home Affairs needs to enable difficult discussions around our changing cultural identity and ensure that we have both integration and assimilation policies to help with this. In short, I believe the Island voted for change at the last election and wants us to consider fresh approaches. Central to this is the bedrock of Home Affairs, which needs to bring into the light some of the more challenging issues that we have until now swept under the carpet, and  
1960 which we need to address in order to be an Island that is truly fair and safe for all.

Thank you.

**Committee for Health & Social Care –  
Deputy George Oswald elected**

**The Bailiff:** Well, Members of the States, I am minded, as I indicated, to adjourn shortly and then resume with questions after the luncheon adjournment, but let me just announce the result of the  
1965 election of the President of the Committee for Health & Social Care.

There was a single candidate, Deputy Oswald, proposed by Deputy St Pier and seconded by Deputy de Sausmarez. He received 37 votes. There was one spoilt paper and there was one blank paper, and therefore I will declare him duly elected to that office. *(Applause)*

Now we will adjourn until 2.30 p.m.

*The Assembly adjourned at 12.24 p.m.  
and resumed its sitting at 2.30 p.m.*

1970

**Committee for Home Affairs –  
Election for President continued**

**The Bailiff:** Members of the States, there will now be a period of up to 45 minutes or thereabouts questions to the candidates, which once again must be related to the areas of policy included within  
1975 the mandate of the Committee for Home Affairs and there will be the usual rotation of who answers questions first in the order in which they were nominated.

Let us start with Deputy Bury.

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

1980 In the last domestic abuse and sexual violence policy letter from Home Affairs there was reference to greater protection, earlier intervention and improved performance in response to these offences but no indication of how this will be measured or where we are starting from. If you were the President of Home Affairs would you propose to take some action in this area so that the effectiveness of new Laws can be measured and the data used to direct future policies?  
1985

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Leadbeater.

**Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, sir; and I thank Deputy Bury for the question.

1990 I think if we are introducing any new legislation, any new policies, we have to have the ability to be able to measure the success or otherwise of the Laws and policies that we introduce, so certainly.

I could not tell you exactly how we go about that, but I thank Deputy Bury for raising that and, if I was President of the Committee, I would engage with Deputy Bury on this and see how we can put things into place in order to measure the success or otherwise of that piece of work.

1995       **The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen.

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

2000       That is a good question. We have done a few other things as well as the legislation, like the Sexual Assault Referral Centre and we have tightened up the Laws that the police indeed have for domestic violence. There are a lot more tools in their tool bank. But I personally abhor any violence to youngsters, be it boys or girls, and we see a lot of that on the Island, and indeed women in the night-time economy.

2005       We are aware of the problem, and the Chief of Police is aware of the problem, and we know what we have to do with regards to consultation with others. That could be a simpler thing that could be done tomorrow where in your liquor licence – if you sell liquor on your premises, to protect those people you have CCTV as a condition of your liquor licence. That has been suggested to us. Those are the sorts of things which will probably –

2010       **The Bailiff:** The minute is up, Deputy Vermeulen.  
Deputy Ozanne.

2015       **Deputy Ozanne:** Most definitely, yes, Deputy Bury. We need data in which to inform ourselves. Jersey have got some very concerning data, which I think Guernsey would mirror. Some of the data we do have from the police shows that 9% of women who partake in the night-time economy have experienced some form of sexual violence, 20% have experienced some form of sexual harassment. I think we need to dig into those figures and understand how we put together a violence against women and girls strategy, which puts us in line with the Istanbul Convention, which we have signed up to. So we have committed to having a programme. We need it to be evidence-based. We can learn from Jersey and indeed the UK, but we need to know what is going on here.

2020       Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Niles.

**Deputy Niles:** Thank you, sir.

2025       Post-Brexit and the Common Travel Area, I would like to have your thoughts, please, on what you will do to ensure that we are able to maintain good travel arrangements with the UK, but also I would like to understand your thoughts on the Brexit reset and our ability to do business in France?

2030       **The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** That is an excellent question. We have to really be in lockstep with the UK, I am not prepared to gamble or risk doing anything that would see us thrown out of the Common Travel Area for trade or us with our passports moving through Heathrow. So that really is important.

2035       I am aware there are constitutional reasons why we cannot adopt some of the policies which might seem popular and we have got to keep, like I said, in lockstep with the UK.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ozanne.

2040       **Deputy Ozanne:** I cannot see any reason why the CTA agreement would be under threat. We have a beneficial benefit both with the UK and ourselves. But if we did, if I am honest, I would probably utilise a lot of my Westminster contacts. I happen to be on the Archbishop's Council with David Lammy. I know him very well. I know most of the front bench quite well and I have good

contacts in the FCDO and the Ministry of Justice. So I think diplomacy would be the best way forward with Deputy Le Tocq, who has also done extremely good work with France, with Deputy Prow, about ensuring that we can have day trips from France.

We need to ensure that we can ensure that people can continue to come on holiday here and that is work that I believe is ongoing.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Leadbeater.

**Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, sir, and I thank Deputy Niles for the question.

The Common Travel Area agreement brings many benefits, not just the ease of travel. If you cast our mind back to the pandemic, we were on top of the list to receive a vaccine, FOC, from the UK because we are members of the Common Travel Area; so long may that continue.

I would like to see the use of ID cards for European travellers permanently because, as we know, many people in northern Europe that historically like to travel to Guernsey, a lot of them do not have passports. So if we want to continue to receive tourists from northern Europe, France in particular, I would like to see a continuation of the ID card scheme.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Matthews.

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

Sir, the Island's population has seen one of the most dramatic increases that we have seen in recent years. The electronic census shows that there was a net migration of 1,064 people over the year ending to 30th December 2023, far higher than the target level or the indicated level of 300 under the Population Management Law. What steps could be taken in the immediate term and what steps could be taken in the short and medium term to address this difference?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ozanne.

**Deputy Ozanne:** Net migration is a concern not just to this Chamber but to many on the doorstep, and I thank you for the question. I think many of us have shown in our response to the *Guernsey Press* that actually there is a willingness in this Chamber to look again at our population policy, which I think was crafted after the COVID challenges that we faced. It is not fit for purpose.

I think the trouble is we do not have the data to understand where that increase has come from. Is it people returning to the Island because they have a right to be here? Is it people coming in on one year licences that then somehow apply for eight? Is eight years long term? Is it other forms that we are not sure about? I think we need to get a full grip of what is happening.

We need to work with all industries, both the Health & Social Care Committee, with the travel industry and with the finance industry to understand what their needs are. My greatest concern is actually having a workforce that is balanced across all age groups and all income levels.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ozanne, your minute is up.  
Deputy Leadbeater.

**Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, sir; and I thank Deputy Matthews for the question.

In the short term we need to look at our own policy list to make sure we have it right, because we may not have it right because there are lots of positions attracting eight-year licences and then you can accommodate extended family, which may not be what you would call key roles.

In the medium term, or short to medium term, we need to align our population policies with our housing policies, because at the moment we are increasing our population and we are not increasing our housing stock, and that is unsustainable. But we need a comprehensive review of the whole regime, in my opinion, and I would prioritise that if I was President of the Committee.



2095 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** So, yes, we are introducing biometric signature on our passports as we go through, so we will be able to track people far better than what we have in the past, especially when people actually leave the Island.

2100 Interestingly in the UK, there is a problem there with people staying beyond their permit time and they were saying that carers is one of the things which qualify for these permits, which they are tightening up on. At home already we have tightened up on some of the long-term licences we give, but we do have the short term where you cannot bring dependent relatives in as well. That is encouraged for the one to three-year term.

2105 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Camp.

**Deputy Camp:** Thank you.

2110 Moneyval failures were most felt in the area of financial crime enforcement. What measures do you consider essential to improve our outcome in this critical area to ensure the EFCB and FIU are truly effective and improve their working relationships with industry?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Leadbeater.

2115 **Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, sir; and I thank Deputy Camp for the question.

Our FIU is a new beast. It was created because of Moneyval. I remember standing in this Chamber back – not the term just gone but the term previous to that – fighting for Home Affairs for a £1.3 million ring-fenced budget for our Financial Intelligence Unit; £900,000 of that was going to them and £400,000 of it was going to the Law Officers. This is all part of the important piece of work that we need to do to keep abreast of Moneyval. Because it is a new beast, there is going to be some tinkering that needs to be done.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen.

2125 **Deputy Vermeulen:** Thank you.

Sir, we did have a good pass through Moneyval and there was a lot of preparedness that went on. We opened Marie Randall House, the new financial crime centre. Yes, I think our preparations for that – we developed a national strategy as well. There was some fear from industry that we were going too far or that we would fail, but improvements were made to registry and other areas and we had a very good pass on all 40 items we had measured on.

2130 I think better detection rates, so what we do at home is really important, but I have to say at the end of the day I think we are a very well-regulated Island when it comes to financial crime.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ozanne.

2135 **Deputy Ozanne:** I thank Deputy Camp for the question. I think it gives me a chance to congratulate the previous Committee on their work on Moneyval, which they did in a relatively short period of time. I think we need to be much better prepared next time.

2140 The truth is we have made six out of 11 passes, 40 technical passes. One of the areas that we need to really address falls within the Home Affairs mandate, and that is actually getting prosecutions over the line. That has some very difficult challenges because that is to do with the cost of legal action. Companies that we are looking into will put literally millions into their legal defence. Are we prepared, as a States, to match that?

2145 Our own reputation is at stake and I would suggest that we have to match it, but we need teams who are prepared and are able to see that work right through. At the moment, we have got a bit of

a retention issue. I have been talking with the officers in Moneyval and in the Crime Bureau and they have been working exceptionally hard, but we have to recognise the problem we are in.

Thank you.

2150 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Le Tocq.

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

I am interested in candidates' views on prison reform. A little over 12 years ago we moved the prison towards becoming a working prison and that saw pretty good results in terms of reducing recidivism. But that seems to have stalled. What will they seek to do to re-establish that type of activity?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen.

2160 **Deputy Vermeulen:** Yes, we got a good performance with our prison; we regularly monitor who is in it and the type of crimes that are committed that we are seeing from the residents. Where we have got a good record is there is not so many repeat offenders now, there is a better education programme going on in the prison. I think we have got a Deputy here among us now who has been a big part of that in getting results. So people talking to the prisoners, they are prepared to turn their lives around and what the prison provides them with has helped them turn the corner and perhaps see the light.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ozanne.

2170 **Deputy Ozanne:** My first consultancy project was with Dartmoor Prison as it happened, which is a prison, as many of you may know, that has got a lot of sexual offenders in it. I am a great believer in restorative justice programmes, but when you are dealing with sexual offenders, which I am afraid sadly is one of the greatest increases in our prison population, you need quite a specific programme that helps them understand the impact on their victim but deal with some core issues, and that requires education.

2175 Mr Le Feuvre is doing an extraordinary job from what I can see there but we need to invest in that. I think there are programmes we can learn from the UK and there are indeed third sector charities who are working in this space, even here in Guernsey with Caritas. So I think we need a holistic approach, we need to invest. They are not simple problems but I do believe in restorative justice and we need to look at how we do that.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Leadbeater.

**Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, sir; and I thank Deputy Le Tocq for the question.

2185 During my first term in the States I was on Home Affairs throughout the term, I was Vice-President for the last two years, we spent a considerable amount of time at the prison, we had many meetings at the prison. Everyone had a job back then, as soon as you came into prison you had a job. I understand that during the last term things may have slipped. The engagement with the Service Chiefs was not as good as it was during the term when I was on Home Affairs and 2190 I would like to re-establish that engagement and provide the support that the Service Chiefs will need.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Rylatt.

2195 **Deputy Rylatt:** Thank you, sir.

The previous Home Affairs was one of the few Committees that did not comply with the freedom of information request last term and even rejected the recommendation of the Independent Review

Panel. If elected, will you commit to a higher standard of openness and transparency, particularly in areas of public interest, such as law enforcement?

2200

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ozanne.

**Deputy Ozanne:** Thank you for the question, Dr – Deputy Rylatt, you have been promoted.

2205 I stood on a mandate to look at our social contract and that is about transparency. I have been surprised to learn that we do not have the same freedom of information legislation here. We have a code of practice, but it is not legislation. I would commit to being as open and transparent as practically possible. There are obviously areas where we have to redact, where we have to take a view, where there are vexatious claims and comments, and that is a subjective judgement. Ideally, that would be under an independent review body.

2210 I think we do need to look at how we engage and rebuild trust with the public and knowing how we do that and implement that code of practice is going to be key to that.

Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Leadbeater.

2215

**Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, sir, and I thank Deputy Rylatt for his question.

2220 I would not have acted that way. I would not have acted in the same way as the previous Committee did. I would have accepted the advice that was given to me by the experts. Openness and transparency and rebuilding trust with the community and law enforcement is one of the key reasons why I am standing in this seat today. Members can be assured that I will progress that work and ensure that we can rebuild some trust and there is no sinister feeling between the public and law enforcement.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen.

2225

2230 **Deputy Vermeulen:** I have had a front row seat in watching these requests for information. On the whole they are dealt with and the information is provided. I think many of the people in the media have taken the lazy way of reporting and used those subject access requests to get a story. In the UK there is legislation, and if it would take over 8 hours officers' time to research that information then they are not dealt with. We have not got that requirement so anybody can request any information at the moment. But on the whole most of the questions are answered as fully as they can.

2235 Where it is excessive hours, if we are looking into every motor accident with a bicycle, a motorbike, a moped, a lorry, a bus, those sorts of records that are sometimes required, we do not have that full information at hand. It would take onerous amount of time to research that and come up with the answers, probably months.

**The Bailiff:** Your minute is up, Deputy Vermeulen.  
Deputy Gabriel.

2240

**Deputy Gabriel:** I would like the candidates' opinion on the legal status of cannabis possession and the current sentencing guidelines around it.

Thank you.

2245

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Leadbeater.

**Deputy Leadbeater:** Well, Members who were listening into the debate or were part of the debate in 2022 of the GWP, I fought for, as a member of HSC along with Deputy Bury, Deputy Matthews, to include that piece of work into the Government Work Plan. That was a pipeline piece

2250 of work that is now for the new Committee to take forward this term and they would certainly have my total support.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen.

2255 **Deputy Vermeulen:** I look to the UK for the example, and we do need to be in lockstep with the UK on this. There is no point in us paddling our canoe and breaking the Laws we have got as a Crown Dependency with the UK if it risks losing that rating. Yes, I do not think – I am pretty open-minded about it, but should the UK legalise it, then would be the time to look at Guernsey. A little bit like assisted dying, although in the UK they are saying, ‘Well we have not got the budget’, Health have not got the budget for assisted dying. So we have to consider that too.

2260

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ozanne.

**Deputy Ozanne:** Thank you, Deputy Gabriel, for the question.

2265 I think there are two issues here, if I may. One is about the legal status of having cannabis. The Chamber may want to know, sir, that I was very involved with the Cannabis Coalition in Westminster that fought against the legalisation of cannabis, very concerned about the health risks, the psychotic episodes and the gateway effect, but that is my personal view and obviously if I was President of this Board I would seek the full Board’s and indeed the Chamber’s view on that.

2270 The second is the impact on sentencing, however. I think we have very strict sentencing rules. We ruin young people’s lives unnecessarily, in my humble opinion. I know that is not just for Home Affairs, that is actually a matter for you, sir, and the judiciary, but I do think we need to look again at sentencing guidelines for people caught in possession for personal use.

2275 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Blin.

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

If I could ask the candidates, I would like to go back to the short-term employment permits. They were available for five years without dependents and they worked very efficiently. When they were reduced to three, it has caused a problem. We have removed the five years, so could I ask the candidates what they would consider, at least in regards to the STEP, and what change they would propose?

2280 Thank you.

2285 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** Yes, sir, immigration is a huge part of Home’s mandate. I think the MTEPs did allow, which is three to five years, dependents to come, so that now has been taken out. Of course, it is very much on the electorate’s mind that we are perhaps letting too many people actually in. But it is a balancing act. You have got the amount of business, finance houses, they all need staff, the hospital needs staff, it needs carers, so probably the States’ Departments on their own would probably cover 300 permits each year, just with the States. Then you have got the rest of the business out there.

2290 So I think the way forward is to encourage the short term, one to three licences a year at a time, and keep revisiting who qualifies for long-term licence, the seven-year licence. They are quite expensive, but you can bring over your dependents.

2295

**The Bailiff:** That is your minute, Deputy Vermeulen.  
Deputy Ozanne, please.

2300

**Deputy Ozanne:** Thank you for the question, Deputy Blin.

I will confess this is not an area I am an expert in by any means and I would want to seek advice from not only the Board, but from other Boards and Committees who are impacted by this and, indeed, from stakeholders. We heard many of us, when we went to the GHA, that the removal of MTEP had had quite a significant impact on their business, and that is the law of unintended consequences, I think.

So I do think there is time for review across the industries, as I hinted at earlier. The truth is if you have a system there will always be people who intend to play that system and we need to have a robust approach to those who are trying to find their way through. On the whole, the vast majority are just trying to eke out a living and have a future. But I think it is time to take back – that removal of MTEP I believe happened after COVID, I may be wrong there, but I would like to understand the bigger picture and how we, with our Housing Strategy, look at having something that is fit for the five years ahead.

Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Leadbeater.

**Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, sir.

When they were first introduced the STEP was a one-year licence renewed for up to five years, we had the MTEP which is a five-year licence, and we have the LTEP, which is an eight-year licence. Clearly there was the review last term, the MTEPs reviewed and there were certain changes made to the STEPs. We do not have it right, it needs revisiting. Deputy Blin is absolutely bang on; we do not have it right. The removal of the MTEP created a bit of a vacuum in the middle between the two permits so I think we need to seriously look at that again.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** Over the past five years the Home Department budget has gone up some 30% and I think 92% of your budget is wages alone. Deputy St Pier is now a member of Policy & Resources and as a leader of the Future Guernsey Party or Forward Guernsey Party he will be wanting or at least he will be arguing for a 1% reduction in your budget. Given what I have just said, how are you going to do that when Policy & Resources come knocking on your door?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ozanne.

**Deputy Ozanne:** Thank you, Deputy Inder.

I think this is one of the hardest questions to answer, particularly for a Committee that is so core to everything that we need in Guernsey, which is a stable, safe, protected environment. We cannot cut back on our emergency services, cannot cut back on our border force. We could look to learn, as I know we are already doing from other jurisdictions, to see if there are smarter ways of working and indeed there are ways of working perhaps across the Channel Islands itself.

I would need to understand the budget obviously in an awful lot more detail than I am privy to as a candidate here, but I am a great believer it is often the processes rather than the people that are the issue and that we can learn from those, like the Isle of Man and Jersey, who have perhaps already trod this path ahead of us. I cannot give you any more information than that at this point.

Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Leadbeater.

**Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, sir.

I think when I was in Home Affairs – the budget has gone up considerably since I was in Home Affairs. I would not start asking the Service Chiefs to slash their budget by X per cent or whatever that may be. I think they have already made some reductions this term. The former Committee

instructed them to make a budget reduction of about 1%, which they have already done. So I do not think there is that much fat on the bone to be able to cut anymore.

But working with the Service Chiefs, not instructing them, would be my answer.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** Sir, having run a business in the past for 43 years, a huge part of our turnover was staff wages. Every time you needed to recruit someone, there was an extra fee for that, and it was always an offset so it was a huge cost. Better retention of the staff is key. Key. For that you need decent leadership. You need decent leadership at Home, you need the Service Chiefs to also be decent, and they certainly are, and they certainly have ideas from the UK where they have had to make efficiencies. But that is one area which I am really pleased we have already started making inroads into, and I think there are always efficiencies and there are always savings to be made. I do not agree with salami slicing 5% off everything, because that will not work. But efficiencies are there to be made. It is a golden opportunity, really.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Rochester.

**Deputy Rochester:** Thank you.

The end-of-term report for Home Affairs sets out a programme of work that is underway examining to what extent the UK Online Safety Act should be brought into local legislation. Would the candidates consider that delivering the basic protections afforded by the Online Safety Act should be an immediate priority, given that our children are currently entirely unprotected when they engage with the online world, and what, if anything more, should be done?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Leadbeater.

**Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, sir; and I thank Deputy Rochester for the question.

Of course, I think it is massively important because everybody has a smartphone at the end of their fingertips now. Young people, eight to nine years old, we have witnessed in the media recently that the terrible news that we have read about young people getting groomed, etc., via Snapchat. I would like to see a Snapchat ban for under-16s. I think we need to look at policies like this, it may sound a bit right wing, but I think we have to stop young people from getting taken advantage in this way, and certainly Acts like that being extended to Guernsey is a crucial step in the right direction.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** Yes, we are working on online security with Jersey as well. But it might be something as simple as a ban on mobiles for all under 16-year-olds, not to have that anxiety that is created when they are constantly scrolling through those phones.

There are other things we can do too but something new like this does come at a cost; you have got to find offices, you have got to find premises, you have got to find staff to do this. The Deputy is right, we do need to look at that and improve that and keep our children on the Island safe and secure.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ozanne.

**Deputy Ozanne:** Thank you, sir; thank you to Deputy Rochester.

The Online Safety Bill was something that I was quite involved in, in Westminster, because it was to do with safeguarding of young people and their mental health, and that impacted and still

2405 impacts many of them to a very tragic end. We have exactly that same problem here and that is why I understood the Committee was looking for a PEC to extend that to the Bailiwick.

I think it is a very good example of where social policy in the UK is something that we should immediately follow as far as practical because we face the same problems. We could actually even be quite an interesting, dare I say, test market or place to trial these things. I know Deputy Rochester has been involved, as indeed have others, with the smartphone ban and I would support that. It is a cross-Committee initiative, and I think that is also what we need to be looking at. I would support anything that makes our children safe.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier.

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

The Justice Review pretty well stalled during the last term of Government. If it is a priority for candidates, given the constraint on resources and given the many strands to the Justice Review, what would the candidates seek to prioritise and how would they seek to deliver that prioritisation within the workstreams that they have?

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** When I started on Home we were fearful of the Justice Review not being a very sexy, attractive proposition for the Government Work Plan. On Home we realised that we have got a load of people there on bail in the prison; we have got to look at things like that before they are actually sentenced. It has to happen. We realised on Home that it has to happen but it is in the power of all you Deputies out there to make sure that it is in the Government Work Plan and that it does succeed and is progressed.

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It was taken out of the Government Work Plan because there were other things which seemed to be more important, but Home did not feel like that. Front and centre; that is one of the things we need to do.

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ozanne.

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**Deputy Ozanne:** Thank you, sir; and thank you, Deputy St Pier.

The nature of crime is changing. The nature of make-up in our prisons – as I have already touched on – is changing. Sexual offence and sexual violence is becoming far more of a problem. Therefore, we need to look again afresh at our Justice Policy and our sentencing guidelines, in collaboration with a wide group of people.

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I do not know enough information, I am going to be honest with you, to know what I would prioritise at this point. I would need to sit down with the experts and seek to understand what the statistics are about who is coming in, but it strikes me that these are issues that Jersey, the Isle of Man, and other smaller jurisdictions are also having to look at. We should learn from them. Most of it is to do with education and trying to stem, if you like, the issues before they actually need to be brought to justice. I think that is an education piece.

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I am sorry; I need to know more to give you a fuller answer but I would commit to doing that.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Leadbeater.

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**Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, sir; and I thank Deputy St Pier for the question.

As I mentioned in my speech, DBS reform is right up there because – as many Members may know or may not know – once offenders in Guernsey finish their sentence, the period of time until that is spent is considerably longer than that of our neighbouring jurisdictions, Jersey and the UK. Putting ex-offenders in Guernsey at a massive disadvantage when it comes to building a better life after they have been in prison.

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Electronic tagging and other community disposals; we need to take advantage of this. We need to keep people out of the criminal justice system as much as possible and we need to look at other potential options for the judiciary to give them as many tools in their box to be able to help people on the right path and keep them out of trouble.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Montague.

**Deputy Montague:** Thank you.

My question is regarding promoting a safe society. I would like to know from the candidates what more they think we could be doing to prevent criminal behaviour by young people.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ozanne.

**Deputy Ozanne:** Thank you, sir; and thank you, Deputy Montague.

I think, as I keep coming back to, the rise in sexual violence and sexual offences is a really difficult issue, particularly even among our youngest Members, and that is fuelled – as we have just touched on – with the Online Safety Bill. But I think having things like CCTV in public spaces would allow people to know that they are safer, but also that we can hold people more to account. Getting evidence is really difficult when you are looking at sexual crime. I think it is beholden to us as an Island to try and make our public spaces and the places where young people congregate safe.

There is a lot of debate on that in Westminster, which we could learn from, and I know Jersey too have already had to look at this. I would be one that would be focusing primarily on education but also transparency and accountability through CCTV.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Leadbeater.

**Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, sir; and I thank Deputy Montague for the question.

When I was briefly on Home Affairs at the start of the previous term I had a conversation with one of the members of Action for Children and they wanted to work with the law enforcement in areas such as the South Esplanade where there was a problem with youth behaviour. I brought that to Committee; it was rejected by the Committee.

If I was made President of the Committee I would re-engage with that individual, who is still at Action for Children. I would seek to work with Education, Sport & Culture, and I would seek to work with the Youth Commission. We need a joined-up approach if we are going to be able to get on top of this issue.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** Yes, time and time again when we have discussed matters why people behave like this and we have gone into it, education keeps coming back as perhaps the place to start how to behave, how to treat people with respect. Obviously your parents should be giving you those core values and guiding you through life but I am aware that not everybody has parents like that, and that does not happen.

So whether it is through our schools or whether it is through an awareness campaign, things have really changed since I was a young man 30, 40 years ago. The behaviour that was accepted then is no longer accepted. But, yes, better CCTV in the nightclubs is presenting us with a better detection rate. The population in the prison is increasing with people who have done sexual assault, sadly, and it has got to stop.

The Police Chief is making himself and his force highly visible in St Peter Port –

**The Bailiff:** Your minute is up, Deputy Vermeulen.



**Deputy Vermeulen:** – so that helps too.

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

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**Deputy Gollop:** I was involved in the last term in pay negotiations with personnel from the Home Department, but apart from the pay and conditions what other things would the President candidates do to ensure motivation, morale, recruitment and retention so that there are no gaps, as I understand some elements of the uniformed service and understrength.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Leadbeater.

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**Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, sir; and I thank Deputy Gollop for his question.

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P&R are the employer; they set out the terms and conditions for employment for officers of law enforcement and across the rest of services. But we need a proper relationship between the Committee and the Service Chiefs. We need to understand the problems that they may be experiencing in recruitment and retention. There are a group of officers that represent the rest of their officers, a Police Committee I think they are called. The Committee for Home Affairs needs to engage with them to hear from them – not necessarily directly through their line managers – exactly what affects them and what affects morale.

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We know what we need to do when it comes to things like police complaints. We need to find some common ground between members of the public and the police force; that will help morale and that will help recruitment and retention.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen.

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**Deputy Vermeulen:** It is that R word again: it is respect. Your staff, you respect them, you give them the responsibility, you recognise what they do, and at the end of the day P&R reward them. Those are the four Rs which are essential.

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We do talk to the police and if they have problems, if there is any perceived breakdown of relationship between them and their superiors that does come to us. But I have to say at the moment I am hugely impressed at the new Chief and also at the fire brigade too, that sometimes a new brush sweeps clean, and it seems to be a far better relationship and we seem to be working far more in line with those new appointments. That is exciting.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ozanne.

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**Deputy Ozanne:** Thank you, sir; and thank you, Deputy Gollop.

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At the heart of a lot of our retention issues is the thorny issue of housing, particularly those on lower salaries, i.e. not those in the senior management positions who often are at a point in their careers and indeed in their lives where they want to settle down and have a family and cannot afford to do that over here. Housing and our new Housing Committee is going to be core to a lot of that. Looking at strategies to maintain and retain key workers I think is going to be critical to a housing policy.

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Leadership is key and I too, like Deputy Vermeulen, have been very impressed with the new Chief of Police, his desire to engage with the community, rebuild what has been sadly some trust issues. We have had quite a lot of complaints which have hit the media, and I should think if you are an officer working under all that it would also start to undermine your own sense of pride in what you do. Most of the officers I have met are absolutely dedicated to this Island, but it is tough, we police by consent –

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ozanne, your minute is now expired.

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**Deputy Ozanne:** Thank you.

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

2565 **Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Thank you, sir.

The Committee *for* Home Affairs has the mandate over the electoral role, however, the current system of requiring preregistration before each election creates a significant barrier to the electoral participation. The States are under the resolution to review the electoral role process. What are the candidates' views on ensuring we make the electoral role process easier for the next election?

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen.

2575 **Deputy Vermeulen:** Yes, I am all for making it easier but also we are looking at sharing the information to make it easier for people moving to the Island to open up bank accounts. The electorate have got to be informed that if we move forward in this way that they give permission to share that information with these finance houses.

I would certainly like to see an increase in the number of people that register to vote, so I think we have got to do all we can do to improve that. Maybe we look at the way we hold elections, maybe we do a slight change there and bring it back a little bit more into the parishes but, yes, that is probably where we are on the electoral role.

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ozanne.

**Deputy Ozanne:** Thank you, sir; and thank you for the question.

2585 I understand that there has been a debate within the Committee itself as to whether the electoral role should actually sit within Home Affairs or in fact should actually sit under a different Committee, although the Work Plan document does not name which preferred Committee that would be. It does not it seems, from what I have understood, sit well because it has a lot of data that could impact all sorts of things.

2590 But the core issue I think, from what your question is, is do we need to look again at Island-wide voting. I know that was not actually your question but I think that is a bigger question. If we had a system that people wanted to buy into we would probably have much greater sign up and, therefore, we may need to look at a different form of the electoral role process because people would actually really want to be engaging with it. But the core question is where should it sit.

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy Leadbeater.

**Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, sir; and I thank Deputy Kazantseva-Miller for her question.

2600 I had people come to me during the last couple of elections and say, 'I have not registered but so-and-so is standing and I would have loved to have supported them and if I had known that they were standing I would have registered.' So we need to square the circle. It has happened during the last three elections that I have been involved with.

I think we need to look at some sort of opt-out system. You are automatically registered and if you do not want to participate you can opt out. I think that will be the easier and fairer way to do it.

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**The Bailiff:** Alderney Representative Snowden.

**Alderney Representative Snowden:** Thank you, sir.

2610 How do you see the relationship between Home Affairs and Alderney, and potentially streamlining of services, not downgrading services but doing things better to save some money? Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ozanne.

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**Deputy Ozanne:** Thank you, sir; thank you, Deputy Snowdon.

I am keen to come to Alderney and understand in greater depth the relationship we have. I already had a conversation with you about how the Home Affairs mandates impact you and, I will be honest, I need to understand that further before I can answer your question in full.

2620

My principle is that the better we can work in partnership it is a win-win; we face the same challenges, we face the same budget restrictions, but we face the same security threats and we must be able to find a better and more cost effective way of working, and I would be keen to do that with you.

Thank you.

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy Leadbeater.

**Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, sir; and I thank Alderney Representative Snowdon for his question.

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Clearly we have transferred services in Alderney from the Committee *for* Home Affairs. We have the police, obviously the Border Agency, etc. I used to enjoy visiting Alderney and touring the services and meeting with members of the community in Guernsey when I was previously on Home Affairs.

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We need closer links. We have to understand that if we get a dinghy of potential migrants that just get 8 km off of northern France and they get into Alderney waters, they are our responsibility. We have to work together, and this will happen at some point. We cannot pretend that it is not going to happen and we are completely isolated from this problem because we are not. So we have to remain focused. Alderney is part of Guernsey's border so we have to remain focused and we have to have proper closer links with the States of Alderney.

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** Yes, I think you have got to look at other things as well: smuggling, duty free, that sort of thing. But we would take advice from the Alderney reps, we would discuss it with your other Deputies on the Island, and see if there are ways which we could do those things in a better way.

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Obviously if we can reduce the cost of travel and make travel more reliable and more frequent that would certainly help. That is a starting point. But whether we have a police station there or overnight accommodation or how we police it, we would talk with you and discuss it and listen to your ideas first.

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy Curgenven.

**Deputy Curgenven:** Thank you, sir.

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I would actually like to go on the record and say that our new Chief Officer is phenomenal. I think at least two of the people up there recognise that. I would like to ask, given the suggestions of past meddling in operational policing matters by the prior Committee *for* Home Affairs, would you back any plans to change the policy letter outlining the relationship between the head of law enforcement and the Committee *for* Home Affairs, to allow complete operational freedom for the head of law enforcement?

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Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Leadbeater.

2665 **Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, sir; and I thank Deputy Curgenven for his question.

When I was first on Home Affairs in 2016 we were subject to a governance review and we were subject to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary inspection. Both were very critical of operational interference and a protocol was developed between the Committee and signed between the Committee and the head of law enforcement at that time. One of the members of the Committee broke it within six months, but that is by the by.

I would reinstate a protocol so we know where the lines are because operational interference has no place in Government.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen.

2675 **Deputy Vermeulen:** I have not seen any operational interference in cases. In fact we have been advised not to get involved. But I do know on the previous Committee that was a problem. People were getting involved in personal matters and prosecutions and that should not happen. I am delighted to hear that recommendation of the new Chief of Police we were lucky enough recruit in our watch. That is good news all around.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ozanne.

**Deputy Ozanne:** Thank you, sir; and thank you for the question.

2685 I too am thrilled to hear of that, and I agree with Deputy Leadbeater that we need a protocol. I am not aware of any interference myself either; there is obviously concerns perhaps that have been raised with yourself and it would be good to understand that fully. I do believe that we need to review the police complaints process. That is about independence, and I think that goes to the core perhaps of your question there too. We need to ensure that our emergency services – particularly our police – are fully independent and that we do not interfere with that, and you have my commitment on that.

**The Bailiff:** Well, Members of the States, the 45 minutes have passed. You might wish to show your appreciation for the three candidates in answering the questions. *(Applause)*

2695 I will remind you that it is now time to vote. There are three candidates. There is Deputy Leadbeater, proposed by Deputy St Pier and seconded by Deputy de Sausmarez; there is Deputy Vermeulen who is proposed by Deputy McKenna and seconded by Deputy Niles; and then there is Deputy Ozanne who is proposed by Deputy Rochester and seconded by Deputy Rylatt.

2700 Are there any more voting slips that need to be passed to the Sheriff? Because we need to know the outcome of this I will rise briefly. The three candidates can resume their seats down in the well of the Chamber.

*The Assembly adjourned at 3.18 p.m.  
and resumed its sitting at 3.26 p.m.*

### **Committee for Home Affairs – Deputy Marc Leadbeater elected as President**

2705 **The Bailiff:** The result of the election of the President of the Committee for Home Affairs is as follows: Deputy Leadbeater, who was proposed by Deputy St Pier and seconded by Deputy de Sausmarez, received 22 votes; Deputy Vermeulen, who was proposed by Deputy McKenna and seconded by Deputy Niles, received 4 votes; Deputy Ozanne, who was proposed by Deputy Rochester and seconded by Deputy Rylatt, received 11 votes. As a result of Deputy Leadbeater receiving the majority of the votes *(Applause)* – I will continue. As a result of

2710 Deputy Leadbeater receiving the majority of the votes cast he is, therefore, duly elected as the President of the Committee *for* Home Affairs. *(Applause)*

**7. Committing *for* Housing –  
Election of President commenced**

*Article 7.*

*The States are asked:*

*To elect a sitting Member of the States as President of the Committee for Housing to serve until 30th June 2029 in accordance with Rule 16 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation as set out in Section 1 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees.*

**The States' Greffier:** Article 7, Election of the President of the Committee *for* Housing.

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**The Bailiff:** Are there any nominations for this presidency?

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

On behalf of the Policy & Resources Committee I would like to nominate Deputy Steve Williams.

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**The Bailiff:** Is that seconded, Deputy St Pier?

**Deputy St Pier:** Yes, thank you, sir.

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**The Bailiff:** Thank you.

Are there any other nominations for the presidency of the new Committee *for* Housing? I will invite Deputy de Sausmarez to speak for up to five minutes about Deputy Williams.

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

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It is a real pleasure to nominate Deputy Williams for the role of President for the new Committee *for* Housing, especially as in the previous political term that was something I was very closely involved with through both my Committee positions.

I am keenly aware that Deputy Williams is the third newly elected Deputy that my Committee has nominated for a presidency and this was not done without very careful thought. But what gave us the assurance to do so is that each of them – although short on parliamentary experience – has highly relevant, politically adjacent experience, as well as deep technical expertise.

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Deputy Williams has over 40 years' experience in the housing sector, mostly with housing associations but also within the private sector. I have first-hand experience of having worked with Deputy Williams when I was the Vice-President of the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security, and he was the CEO of the Guernsey Housing Association; a role he held for 17 years. I found him to be highly competent, honest, productive, and he certainly knew how to get things done, most obviously in the form of building houses. In his time at the GHA he built 900 affordable homes, adding significantly to Guernsey's housing stock for the people most in need of it.

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But house building is by no means Deputy Williams's only area of expertise. He has always struck me as a great team builder as well, with a management style that clearly inspires respect and loyalty from those that work with him, which no doubt is a factor in his many achievements.

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Deputy Williams knows the local housing sector extremely well. He has an understanding of the housing market that I would argue is unparalleled in this Assembly, and he is well known and well-liked in the industry too. In my previous role as the President of the Committee *for* the Environment & Infrastructure, which then had the mandate for general housing, I spoke several times with

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Deputy Williams following his retirement from the GHA and he gave me, very generously, his time and his insights.

While he may not have much parliamentary experience yet, he certainly knows his way around the States, having worked closely in that role with various Committees and Departments. This has given him a good working knowledge, not only of the operational aspects of the States, but also of some of the States' political processes that will be most relevant to this newly constituted Committee.

The Committee *for* Housing is not, however, just about building homes; there is so much more to it than that. The six priority areas of the Guernsey Housing Plan include affordable housing development – which is of course Deputy Williams's specialism – but also private market supply, the private rental sector, market niches such as homelessness, key worker accommodation, first-time buyers, elderly tenures in the open market and the like, quality and energy efficiency and data and research. Deputy Williams has relevant knowledge and experience to bring to each of these areas, along with a lot of experience on social housing operational matters of course.

Thanks to his leadership role at the GHA he also has plenty of experience in developing policies and strategies, so I am confident that with his Committee he can get his feet under the table quickly and get straight to work. Sir, I commend him to the Assembly.

Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** I now invite Deputy Williams to address the Assembly.  
Deputy Williams please.

**Deputy Williams:** Thank you, sir; and thank you to Deputy de Sausmarez and Deputy St Pier for supporting me, and fellow Deputies.

I am standing here to request your support for me to lead the Housing Committee as its President. I stood for election to become a Deputy specifically because we have a major housing problem and I felt I could help. I have had exactly a 40-year career in getting homes developed of all types, for all age groups and needs. I started my career in 1983, working for a large housing association in England and over my 40-year career I have worked for four housing associations and a private developer specialising in getting new housing built to tackle pressing housing needs for all age groups in a range of cities, towns and villages.

The knowledge and experience I have gained in those 40 years has been extensive, across all the practical issues of developing homes from beginning to end, gaining planning permissions, buying land, organising building consultants and contractors, through to completing new homes and overseeing the residents moving in. In my 17 years as Chief Executive of Guernsey Housing Association I was responsible for delivering 900 new homes here in Guernsey, housing over 2,000 local people, vastly improving the quality of their lives. That is one in 30 local people we housed.

It is with pride that I see residents move in and put nameplates on their homes, such as 'New Beginnings'. A safe, secure home transforms people's quality of life. Apart from the practical experience of getting homes developed I have, as GHA Chief Executive – and that is not the Hospitality Association, GHA, for clarity – spent a great deal of time creating policy, business plans, and managing a not for profit business with over 1,000 homes.

I stood in this election specifically to use my knowledge and experience to try to ease our housing problem, and that was the main theme of my campaign and most of manifesto. That is, I believe, why I was voted in. My mandate from the electorate is to try to sort out the housing problem and I aim to focus my attention fully on finding solutions.

In the year prior to the election, I sat down regularly with a small number of representatives of the housing industry to come up with ideas that might help to ease the housing problem, and many of these ideas are in my manifesto; real, practical ideas from the industry. I am focused on delivering positive, real results for Islanders as I believe we already have sufficient strategies and consultant reports. To take the heat out of the market we have to deliver more homes, and as quickly as we can.

Apart from providing new homes, we need to offer hope and incentives for younger people to stay or return here, for example through long-term savings plans with tax benefits so they can see the opportunity to save up a deposit to buy or rent a home in Guernsey. I am a team player and accustomed to getting things done through a team approach. I will not have all the answers but I am keen to work with partners to get some homes built. I want to lead a successful team who will deliver real, profound, positive benefits for the people of Guernsey by unblocking the housing market.

I know the developers and landowners locally and wish, as a priority, to meet them to find out what is holding them up from building more homes quickly and what, if anything, the States can do to help. Let us work together if we can. If there are sites sat undeveloped that have been zoned for housing and the owner is reluctant to develop then we may need to be more coercive, to force action by using, for example, a punitive derelict Land Tax; and this came up in some discussions during electioneering. It is a sticks and carrots approach; but let us try the carrots first.

Another urgent task will be to find out the progress on the Guernsey Housing Plan and its 28 workstreams. I would like to reduce this down to a smaller number of key actions that can make a real difference to Islanders as quickly as possible. Let us try to get some positive news out there to the public with some early results if we can. A lot of groundwork has been done by E&I and ESS so let us build on that, ensuring we go forward as swiftly as we can.

I am also very keen – as many of the Deputies have mentioned during the election period – to get Leale's Yard developed for the new homes and the economic rejuvenation of the Bridge. I would like to examine the finances to see what the practical options are to get the site developed as soon as possible, while protecting the taxpayers' need for value for money. I will continue to regularly meet with the housing industry to get the maximum benefit we can for the Island from the private sector, and I have been in recent contact with representatives of housing bodies such as the Construction Industry Forum, GBTEA, and the Housing Forum, who I already know very well.

Yesterday I met with a senior civil servant who is working with developers on their construction progress, to find out what is happening, what is held up and why. I was reassured to hear there is a lot in the pipeline coming forward. This will need our attention to deliver that pipeline. For all this we have to acknowledge that the task is not going to be straightforward. There is considerable sensitivity about where new homes should be built and none of us want to see Guernsey overdeveloped. But we need to take the heat out of the housing market and the way to do that is by increasing supply.

Clearly I am a new Deputy and some people may have reservations about a new person coming in as President, but in my case – as Deputy de Sausmarez mentioned – I would like to highlight that in 17 years as Chief Executive of Guernsey Housing Association I spent a great deal of time working in partnership with several States' Committees, mostly ESS, E&I, P&R and the DPA and their predecessors. Some weeks it seemed like I was in Charles Frossard House in the *[Inaudible 3:38:05]* offices more than I was at the GHA offices. During those 17 years I met the civil servants weekly and some Committees monthly or quarterly, presenting reports on GHA's performance, formulating joint GHA and States' policies, and seeking financial approval for new development projects.

The 900 homes we built in 17 years were down to the close and successful partnership work between my senior management team, closely led by me, and those Committees and civil servants. I may not have served as a Deputy but I have enjoyed 17 years in close partnership with successive different Committees responsible for social housing and multimillion pound funding approval, which now feels like a long and extensive apprenticeship.

Providing new homes has been my career and it is why I believe I have been elected by the public. The Housing Committee responsibilities would be my number one focus and that is why I recommend you back me for being President of the Housing Committee as I feel I can add greater value to addressing the housing problem and delivering more for Guernsey people.

Thank you.

2855 **The Deputy:** Members of the States, there is a single candidate for the presidency of the Committee for Housing. That is Deputy Williams, who is proposed by Deputy de Sausmarez and seconded by Deputy St Pier. If you wish to support his nomination then write his name on your ballot slip. Are there any more voting slips? Once again we will wait for that to be counted before I declare it but we will move on to the next item of business please, Greffier.

## **8. Scrutiny Management Committee – Election of President commenced**

*Article 8.*

*The States are asked:*

*To elect a sitting Member of the States as President of the Committee for Environment & Infrastructure to serve until 30th June 2029 in accordance with Rule 16 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation as set out in Section 1 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees.*

2860 **The States' Greffier:** Article 8, Election of the President of the Scrutiny Management Committee.

**The Bailiff:** Are there any nominations?

2865 **Deputy Burford:** I would like to propose Deputy Sloan.

**The Bailiff:** Is Deputy Sloan's nomination seconded?

**Deputy Helyar:** Yes, sir.

2870 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Helyar, thank you.

**Deputy Matthews:** I would like to nominate Deputy Gollop, sir.

2875 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop. Is Deputy Gollop's nomination seconded? Deputy Hansmann Rouxel. Anyone else?

No, in that case I will invite Deputies Sloan and Gollop to come up to the bench, please. Deputy Sloan on the window side and Deputy Gollop nearest the door. I will first invite Deputy Burford, as the proposer of Deputy Sloan, to speak to his candidature.

2880 Deputy Burford, please.

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

2885 I am pleased to propose Deputy Sloan for the role of the President of the Scrutiny Management Committee. I do so with confidence in his professional ability and in the political independence and intellectual curiosity that I believe make him ideally suited to lead the SMC. Deputy Sloan is a trained economist with the procedural understanding of a former civil servant and regulator, and the independence of mind necessary to challenge constructively without partisanship or prejudice.

2890 His professional background spans more than three decades, including senior roles in the States, the Guernsey Financial Services Commission, and across the local finance sector. He was the States' Economist and Head of Policy where he managed the Corporate Tax Review and led the drafting of Guernsey's first fiscal framework and economic plan. He has represented Guernsey at the OECD and led our regulatory response to major developments such as FATCA and the biggest banking reform.

Later as a director at the GFSC Deputy Sloan helped establish Guernsey's financial stability framework, led work on regulatory equivalence, and co-ordinated the Channel Islands' response to



2895 EU initiatives on capital markets. His experience includes both the policy making and the oversight of Government; a balance particularly valuable for the President of Scrutiny.

He is a critical thinker in the best sense: independent, forensic and, above all, constructive. He does not approach issues with preconceptions but with a commitment to evidence, rigour, and to good governance. His public service commitment has spanned many domains, from chairing the governance committee of the States' Pension Scheme, to volunteering in youth sport and founding a local sustainability thinktank. His political experience predates Guernsey, as a Cabinet member on a UK unitary authority he dealt with housing, transport, regeneration and economic development.

2900 Every Member of this Assembly carries the important role of individual scrutineer and Deputy Sloan has assured me that he will also make use of the talents of Members in the many panels that Scrutiny has to populate during the term. Under the SMC, the Scrutiny President oversees the scrutiny of all legislation, as well as financial scrutiny and general scrutiny, including that of Committees through public hearings and reviews.

2905 There is the potential to take financial scrutiny to the next level and to give it greater visibility, and I am sure Deputy Sloan is up to that task. The role of President of Scrutiny is not simply to challenge; it is to uphold the standards of Government, to probe policy with integrity, and to ensure that decisions taken are decisions well-understood. That requires institutional knowledge, subject matter expertise, and the capacity to work across committees.

Scrutiny in this Assembly must be rigorous, fair and constructive. I believe Deputy Sloan can deliver that and I ask Members to support his candidacy.

2915 Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** I now invite Deputy Sloan to address the Assembly for up to 10 minutes on his candidature.

Deputy Sloan please.

2920

**Deputy Sloan:** I rise to speak in support of my nomination for President of the Scrutiny Management Committee, and I do so with both humility and a clear sense of purpose.

2925 Let me begin by thanking Deputy Burford for her nomination and for the confidence she has placed in me. It is an honour to be proposed by someone who has led the Committee with such integrity, seriousness and professionalism over the past term. Her work has set a high standard and I would want to build on that, not depart from it.

2930 Why am I standing? Because I believe scrutiny matters not just as a formality but as a core pillar of good governance. Scrutiny, when done well, improves decisions, reduces risk, increases transparency, builds trust, and ultimately strengthens our democracy. Let me be clear, scrutiny is not opposition, it is not second guessing for the sake of it, nor is it about criticising colleagues or committees. Scrutiny is about asking the right questions at the right time in the right way to help ensure that the decisions we take are the best they can be. That is the approach I would bring to the role.

2935 I would also want my leadership of Scrutiny to reflect the tone of this Assembly as set in its early days; one that feels fresh, forward-looking, and is marked by a collaborative spirit. I believe Scrutiny can and should support that tone by being open, thoughtful and focused on improved outcomes, not just critiquing them. My interest in scrutiny is not new. I made fixing our political process one of the first objectives in my manifesto and I believe stronger scrutiny is a part of that. It is not just a matter of checks and balances; it is about improving how we function as a Government.

2940 What do I bring? Let me highlight the key qualities I believe I offer, and I may clash with what Deputy Burford has already said. I provide analytical capability and expertise, institutional knowledge, and independence of thought.

2945 Firstly, analytical capability and expertise. As Deputy Burford said, I am a professional economist. My PhD is in macroeconomics, my Masters is in public policy economics, I have worked across policy regulation and financial governance throughout my career. I have served as the States' Economist and Head of Policy Research where I drafted the Island's first Fiscal Framework, and the first Fiscal

Economic Plan. I managed the Corporate Tax Review, led Guernsey's engagement with the EU Code of Conduct Group, and with the OECD on tax transparency, as well as concluding tax transparency treaties with the US and the UK.

2950 I was a member of Guernsey's Fiscal Policy Panel, providing independent oversight of our fiscal sustainability and advising on structural risks that remain with us today. I was a member of the Financial Stability Committee, established in response to the IMF's FSAP assessment – that is the Financial Stability Assessment Programme – in 2010. As a director of the GFSC I helped build Guernsey's financial stability framework, I led work on regulatory equivalence, introduced pension regulation, and co-ordinated the Channel Island's response to the EU capital markets reform.

2955 I have also represented Guernsey on several international bodies such as IOSCO, the International Organisation of Securities Commissions, the OECD, IOPS, the International Organisation of Pension Supervisors, and indeed the United Nations. I have worked helping develop international policy through various regulatory working groups, including throughout the Brexit period, membership of TheCityUK, and incorporation of London's Regulatory Equivalence Group, and through the OECD, development of the discussions on tax transparency and standards. I have seen how good governance is built and how things can go wrong without it.

2960 Second, institutional knowledge: I have worked both inside and alongside Government. I understand how public policy is made, where pressure points lie, and how regulation and legislation interlink. I have worked collaboratively with many stakeholder groups; developing policy while at the States, developing strategy while at Guernsey Finance, and developing regulation while at the GFSC. I have also, as Deputy Burford said, served in UK local government as a Cabinet member for planning, transport and regeneration on a unitary authority, working with regional and national bodies to develop public policy on the ground. Today I sit on financial services boards where I see the impact of our decisions in real time. I understand how the public and private sectors intersect and the role Scrutiny can play in bridging that gap, building trust and adding value.

2970 Third, independence of thought: as was made clear throughout the election campaign, I am a member philosophically unaligned. I have worked constructively with Members from all sections of the Chamber in the past, in different roles and on different projects. I value ideas over ideology and collaboration over confrontation. I am standing not to pursue an agenda but to serve this Assembly, to support better decision-making and bring scrutiny that is fair, firm and focused on outcomes.

2975 How would I approach that role? First, with respect for the work of the other Committees, for the Members involved, and for the decisions the Assembly makes. Scrutiny should be challenging but it should also be constructive, it should strengthen decisions, not undermine them. That is the tone I would set.

2980 Secondly, with clarity and focus I would work with the Committees to ensure our reviews are timely, relevant and actionable. I want scrutiny to matter, not as a procedural step but as a tool to help this Assembly govern better.

2985 Third, with inclusiveness. Scrutiny's mandate is broad. It covers legislation, financial oversight, and general policy review across all Committees. That breadth is both a challenge and a strength, but it only works if it is matched with participation.

2990 One of the great assets of our current model is the ability to involve Members and non-Members in hearings and panels. I will ensure that we continue to draw on all the talents of this Assembly and that Scrutiny remains open to new voices and perspectives. I also recognise there is important work already underway, including reviews on recruitment and retention and on investment governance. If elected I will ensure that work is carried forward promptly and concluded effectively, respecting the time and contributions already invested.

2995 Scrutiny also has to work outwardly, not just in what we examine but in how we present that work. If our reports are to carry weight they must be timely, credible and well-communicated. That takes more than just subject knowledge; it requires organisation, clarity, and professionalism in delivery. As Chair I would ensure that Scrutiny is respected not just for what it does but for how it does it: structured, serious and accessible to both this Assembly and the wider public.

I believe there is more we can do to increase the visibility and impact of Scrutiny, especially in relation to financial oversight. The next few years will be challenging. There will be decisions on revenue, health, and investment on infrastructure, and all require serious scrutiny. I would like us to raise the profile of our financial reviews, ensuring they are timely, independent and informative, not just for Members but for the public.

I would also like to acknowledge the important step taken in the last term to make Scrutiny more open through the livestreaming of public hearings. Deputy Burford's leadership in pioneering this approach was a significant achievement. It has helped improve transparency, attract media coverage, and increase public engagement. I will continue this commitment to openness, not just because it builds trust but because it helps project a confident and positive image of our Government to the wider world.

Looking forward, I would like us to gently expand what Scrutiny can offer. I do not just want Scrutiny to be a place that identifies where things went wrong, I want it to help ensure they go right in the first place. That means exploring more pre-decision scrutiny; not interfering but offering early evidence-based input on significant proposals before they are finalised. One or two engagements a year could, I believe, add real value, helping Committees test assumptions, clarify impacts and unintended consequences. Scrutiny should not be just retrospective, it can be part of how we make better policy. That is a direction I would like to explore with care and in partnership and always in the service of improving outcomes.

Madam President, Members, public service has been a constant in my life from my early career in regional government to working in the States, to volunteering in charities and community organisations. I have always believed that experience and insight should be used for the common good. I believe in the value of good governance and I believe scrutiny, done well, helps serve us to govern better. This is not about noise or headlines; it is about seriousness, integrity, and quiet leadership. That is what I hope to bring.

I offer myself to the Assembly and would be grateful for your support.

**The Bailiff:** I now turn to the proposer of Deputy Gollop, Deputy Matthews, to speak about Deputy Gollop.

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

The first thought that occurred to me is that there is not much I can say introducing Deputy Gollop because literally everybody knows him already. The public knows how committed Deputy Gollop is to public life in the States, and fellow politicians know Deputy Gollop for his great memory and understanding of systems, the people who make up the fabric of the States, and how it all fits together.

I have known John for many years. In fact, since the beginning of the century. During the previous term I have worked with Deputy Gollop on the Legislation Review Panel, the Douzaine Liaison Group, the Corporate Parenting Board, and the Children and Young People's Board. In all cases his knowledge, understanding and deep care with which he approaches each subject is striking. His ability to both recall and understand facts, policy positions, people, and the connections between them is nothing short of phenomenal. Anyone who has asked John a question can attest to that.

But it is not just answering questions where Deputy Gollop demonstrates the depth of his knowledge and understanding. John is known as a great questioner. He has undoubtedly asked more parliamentary questions than anyone in this Assembly. This is exactly the sort of probing, ever-inquisitive approach that is so well-suited to the function of the Scrutiny Management Committee. The duty and powers of the SMC Mandate opens with these words:

To lead and co-ordinate the scrutiny of committees of the States and those organisations which are in receipt of public funds, by reviewing and examining legislation, policies, services and the use of monies and other resources for which committees are responsible.

As far as is reasonably practicable, to appoint scrutiny panels (whether task and finish or standing panels) to carry out the work of reviewing and scrutinising committees' policies and services and their management of monies and other resources entrusted to them

Deputy Gollop's record of service to the States makes him the perfect candidate to lead and co-ordinate this function, starting with the Traffic Committee from 1997 to 1999 and then from 2000 to 2004, the Arts from 1997 to 2004, Broadcasting from 1997 to 2004, Heritage from 1997 to 2004, Overseas Aid from 2002 to 2004, the old Housing from 2004 to 2008, Culture & Leisure from 2008 to 2012, and Social Security and ESS from 2012 to 2023.

Education, Sport & Culture from 2017 to 2018, Environment from 2014 to 2016, DPA as President from 2016 to 2019, the House Committee from 2007 to 2008, the Parochial Ecclesiastical Rates Review Committee from 2005 to 2016, as President from 2012, the States' Strategic Plan Working Group from 2010 to 2012, the House Committee which became SACC from 2020 to 2023 and the Scrutiny Committee 2004 inaugural through to 2012.

He was a member of the Legislation Committee Panel from 2004 until 2023, including four years as President and two as Vice-President, he was the Island-wide Disabled People's Champion from 2012 to 2014, a St Peter Port Douzenier since 2024 and, lastly, on Policy & Resources from December 2023 to 2025.

Outside the States he has been involved with many organisations from Living Streets' President twice, St Peter Port Traders' Association, Small Business Organisation, Chamber of Commerce membership and Friends of the Priaux Library Committee, church groups, Arts Council Committee, Mind Committee for eight years, among others.

John knows the States inside out and, outside the States, people know John. John Gollop is the only States' Member many young people can name. Just to give you one small example of his recognition, in the election, one post on the *Guernsey People Have your Say* noted that, 'John is a very intelligent man. Even if you do not agree with his politics, he appears to be very hardworking and knowledgeable and has achieved huge votes in previous elections. He wears his sunflower lanyard and should be noted.' That post attracted over 1,000 likes which is exceptional in that group.

'He is an inspiration to many in the neurodiverse community. John Gollop embodies the title of People's Deputy in a way few others can. For these reasons he is tailor-made to lead the constructive criticism that Scrutiny can offer the States.'

Thank you, sir.

**The Bailiff:** I now invite Deputy Gollop to speak for up to 10 minutes about his candidature. Deputy Gollop, please.

**Deputy Gollop:** Thank you to Deputy Hansmann Rouxel and Deputy Matthews for his kind words.

**The Bailiff:** Stand up.

**Deputy Gollop:** Sir, I am unused to being on the top bench.

I decided to put my main pitch for the Scrutiny Management Committee because I have had long service. In an excellent winning speech, Deputy Bury mentioned that one should not, as a Member, feel a sense of entitlement as a second-termers and she would stand for reasons that you are the best person for the job and you want a calling to do the work.

Well I would agree, but it is not my second term, it is my eighth term. In some way, after 28 years' service and membership of four principal Committees effectively, and nearly 20 months on Policy & Resources, I think I qualify on experience grounds. More of that in a minute.

Moreover, I have won eight elections, usually polling near the top, and have served on Scrutiny's past iterations for eight years and, indeed, Legislation since 2004 for 19 and a half years. I only left at Christmas 2023 because they found I could not actually serve on both under the mandates, but

3095 actually I continued to work at Legislation because I joined the Policy & Resources Legislative Prioritisation Committee with the then Deputy Murray.

I have not just got a theoretical interest in legislation, I not only did an Equity and Trust dissertation and have a BA Honours degree in Law from the University of Kent at Canterbury, but I have of course been President of the old Legislation Select Committee for four years and  
3100 Vice-President for another four. I have reviewed legislation from all kinds of things from Planning Law to Abortion to complicated Corporate Law and Intellectual Property. I think the lawyers on the panel would know that I always widely researched and asked reasonable questions.

I admire the work Deputy Burford did to successfully raise the game and profile for Scrutiny and I certainly would wish to build on that successful base. I would also look afresh at the constitution and mandate; I think there is room to perhaps expand a Scrutiny Management Committee from just  
3105 three political members. I also believe we should hold more frequent reviews of Committee performance.

The output in 2024, for example, by my lights, was effectively five public reviews and two or three important reviews behind the scenes. I believe the Scrutiny management process costs the  
3110 taxpayer, the States over £0.5 million a year. I think, although we are getting good output, we could get better output for money when you compare the resources in some other areas.

I definitely believe we should strengthen the Public Accounts audit function on the information that new Members were given. There was hardly reference in the first block to the Public Accounts' role. I think that Public Accounts is extremely important and, like Deputy Sloan, I would like to see  
3115 more proactive scrutiny that comes before events rather than afterwards, sometimes many years afterwards. I would particularly push for faster analysis of procurements, contracts, the property management role of the States and IT performance. Having seen it from the inside on Policy & Resources, I think that would benefit all of us.

I also believe that we could look at human resources management, health insurance possibilities, Machinery of Government and resources across the system from health to administration. In fact,  
3120 I see the Scrutiny Management Committee completed the Agilisys Review Report, which I hope will be implemented more or less in full by the new States. They also made an interesting report on the Island-wide voting which may need to be dusted off the shelf and continued with.

I think two areas that we perhaps have not finished with yet – there is lots of unfinished business, if I am correct – are the terms of reference for the Investments Review. I have been involved with  
3125 political investments on the Social Security Committee for a number of years and more recently on Policy & Resources.

I support the terms of reference for the Investments Review but I feel there is not enough emphasis there on ethical investments. We all know an issue came up in the campaign about a  
3130 particular firm who may or may not be investing in things that some electors found disturbing. I think we need to include that within a review, as well as performance and effective management and governance of investments.

We also have an outstanding review of recruitment and retention. I know that Policy & Resources recently received a confidential review about our human resources, generally good, but there are a  
3135 few areas we could improve in. I think Scrutiny should immediately work with the senior Committee and across the States to ensure that we have the right performance management appraisals, recruitment and retention and we are keeping the staff happy. That was the theme across the hustings.

I also support the idea of a Government Work Plan Scrutiny Panel. I think we could also have  
3140 Standing Panels across different areas of the States, which would not be in opposition but they would effectively shadow activities and keep a weather eye on the principal Committees and indeed themes. I think one area that is particularly important for Scrutiny is to work across the silos.

When I was on the early Scrutiny Committees we had an interesting report on the dairy sector. We looked at social policy, we looked at truancy and we tried to work out how we could improve  
3145 the States. Later on there was a review of air transport as well and relationship with Alderney. I think

discrete policy areas where there may be a problem, for example, in people not in education or training should be looked at.

I think, too, I remember former Deputy Lester Queripel being passionate about looking and keeping a monitoring eye on children and young people's issues. Deputy Matthews raised an important point that I had a role on Corporate Parenting and Children and Young People's Plan. I believe there is further need to look at SEND provision and, in particular, whether we could and should integrate the education and the health and social services' aspects of mandates together in terms of building a more robust children's presidency standpoint and indeed looking at more effective childcare and a family-friendly States. I think family issues would very much benefit from Scrutiny. I think we also need to look more closely at information technology and whether we are getting value for money.

I think I project clarity of thought; I think I am a critical friend. Sometimes people accuse me of sitting on the fence or changing my vote. I would argue that shows I am open-minded and independent of thought and rarely partisan to one function or another. I am very interested in policy formulation. I listen to arguments; I weigh them up on the time.

I think one area where Scrutiny has succeeded is in broadcasting its main reviews, although perhaps we could have had a review on IT more in public. But they are not watched as much as they should be, I gather, and I think we should increase visibility of Scrutiny. I have been involved in the Latimer House Group looking at parliamentary facilities. I find it interesting that we rarely meet in the Royal Court and we meet instead in the Douzaine Room about five miles away. I would like to increase visibility of Scrutiny, I would like to increase the frequency of meetings, I would like more Members of the Assembly to be involved and I very much believe that we should be involved in cross-Committee reflection and shaping of policy rather than just reflecting it.

To me, two other areas that really do need scrutinising are the Population and Migration Policy and all the issues that go into housing and recruitments. The other area is all the permutations of taxation and whether the information hitherto we have been getting from States' Committees or lobbying groups or other parties is actually accurate. I think that would be very useful work because effectively it would be a second pair of eyes. I do hope you will consider me as both experienced and visionary in seeking this Scrutiny Committee Management chairmanship.

### **Committee for Housing – Deputy Steve Williams elected as President**

**The Bailiff:** Before we move into questions to the two candidates, let me announce the result of the election of the President of the Committee for Housing. There was a single candidate, Deputy Williams, proposed by Deputy de Sausmarez and seconded by Deputy St Pier, who received 34 votes. *(Applause)* There is a lot of premature clapping going on. *(Laughter)* There were two spoilt papers; there were no blank papers. I therefore declare Deputy Williams duly elected to that Presidency. *(Applause)*

### **Scrutiny Management Committee – Election of President continued**

**The Bailiff:** It is now questions on the areas of policy included in the mandate of the Scrutiny Management Committee.

First question, Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** Thank you, sir.

Candidates, I believe I am the only President to ask Scrutiny to put my Committee into review, three times in fact, in a States' debate over the joint Channel Islands' ferry tender. My general experience of Scrutiny is that they grazed over Committee mandates, far too many topics, they relied on President's statements, media reports and policy letters and it was an easy two hours for any President who was across their brief. Would candidates agree that thematic reviews on specific topics with access to minutes from Committees would be a far more forensic approach to any future review?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder, your time is up.  
Deputy Sloan.

**Deputy Sloan:** The question is, do I agree? I agree –

**The Bailiff:** Can you stand up, please?

**Deputy Sloan:** My apologies, sir.

Scrutiny has got to be focused and targeted and programmed, I agree. What you suggest tactically as in a forensic approach about requiring looking at specific policy areas and requirement to looking at minutes, I do think has a role in a Scrutiny process. I would not necessarily say that is the full spectrum of the Scrutiny approach. I personally do believe that Scrutiny has got to have a more proactive role.

This hindsight looking back, I do not feel is necessarily the right or the full way to go, but the short answer to your question, yes, it has a part. It would form a component of the approach I would like to take. The approach I would like to take is a focused programmed approach, as I have previously outlined.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** Not so much recently, although there are clearly some ongoing workstreams, but I remember past Scrutiny Committees and Public Accounts Committees, by the time they had written the report, almost everybody involved with the situation had moved on or retired or lost their seats or whatever, so I do believe that we need to move on quicker.

Deputy Inder's specific question is about thematic reviews. I think I have already said that a useful, proactive role at Scrutiny is to take a theme like, for example, issues with private sector recruitment or public sector recruitment or childcare or autism or whatever that crosses Committee and, therefore, to conduct an intelligent Select Committee review and then pass the findings on to the public and the Committees as soon as possible.

**The Bailiff:** Alderney Representative Snowdon.

**Alderney Representative Snowdon:** Thank you, sir.

Will you confirm you will keep live streaming of the meetings? To improve the good work that Scrutiny have already done, how will you engage further with the work that Scrutiny is undertaking to get more public interest in the hard work that Scrutiny is doing?

Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** Representative Mr Snowdon.

Well maybe we should go to Alderney and have a review. I remember that was done a few years ago when looking at air transport and connectivity. I think actually meeting in a place that has a

perhaps larger public access than the cattle Douzaine Room might help; perhaps meeting in town in this building or elsewhere.

I have noticed a tendency since the streaming of the media not attending so much in person. I think it is important that the media attend and that we have a public audience. Maybe we should meet in the evenings or at times when wider numbers of the public might be watching or attending. I rather agree with what Deputy Inder said earlier, that it was two hours and then up. Sometimes I think it would be more useful to go deeper and not just have one and three-quarter hours but maybe a whole day or series of days –

**The Bailiff:** Your minute is up, Deputy Gollop.  
Deputy Sloan, please.

**Deputy Sloan:** The shortform answer, Deputy Snowdon, is yes. I do believe, as I said in my speech, that the pioneering approach is a very good thing. I do agree with what Deputy Gollop said in terms of some of the numbers of views has tailed off. I think there is a rationale to look at the manner of their pre-presentation, looking at the formatting of the Scrutiny meetings, the location, yes. There is a piece of work there to understand why that dropped off because I do believe that the transparency they bring to Government-making is something that the public should be engaged with and I think it is something the public wants.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Gabriel.

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

This may be asking turkeys to vote for Christmas but I would like the candidates' views on the makeup of the Committee and whether they should be elected Members or one elected Member, their view, and the ability to draft in lay members.

Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Sloan.

**Deputy Sloan:** Sorry, Deputy Gabriel, do you mean the central Committee itself in terms of three plus two? I think it is quite small. Quite frankly, given the size of the mandate in Scrutiny, which I mentioned in my speech, it is a very large mandate, you have various different areas. Obviously with Public Accounts and with Legislation and Select, that is effectively three roles.

There is a case for broader membership. I do believe the ability to co-opt members, both States' Members and non-States' Members, is a very powerful tool and enables one to cast that net wider than one would otherwise be constrained. But the core membership, I do think there is a case for its expansion, yes.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** Thank you.

Remember the nursery story of *The Three Bears* who had porridge and the porridge was either too hot or too cold or just right in the middle for baby bear? Well, Scrutiny is a bit like that. When I started it had nine political members and we had a separate Public Accounts Committee of another nine members – one was Deputy Helyar actually – but there were four who were non-States' Members who were specialists and five politicians, so we had up to 13 different people. That was too many. Then in our wisdom we went down to three and I think that was too few, so perhaps the solution is in the middle.

There are Members, quite senior Members actually, who say that maybe it is not ideal for the States to scrutinise itself because we are a small parliament. I think it is useful; you see it a bit in the



3290 Isle of Man, you see it working relatively well in Jersey, albeit they pump millions into it, but I think we do need our –

**The Bailiff:** Your minute is up, Deputy Gollop.  
Deputy Leadbeater.

3295

**Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, sir.

Can the candidates tell me what they feel about holding snap hearings, potentially in camera if it is a commercially or legally sensitive topic but it is in the public interest?

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** I was going to say actually that an Audit Commission of non-elected specialists would be, I think, beneficial to the Island and, in the long term, an Auditor General. In relation to Deputy Leadbeater's point, such expertise will be particularly useful for a hearing that may not be in public, be in camera. I think actually if Scrutiny were able to hold such hearings and deliver a report that was credible as quickly as possible, it might take a lot of the heat out of media speculation and political factionalism. So actually Scrutiny being in there as a SAS of politics might well be very useful.

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy Sloan.

**Deputy Sloan:** Seductive though the idea is, and I need to be convinced of the merits, it goes against the rationale of having public transparency when it is Scrutiny bringing better decision-making. There is not any better disinfectant than sunlight. But if I can be convinced of the case because we have the public concerns about our lack of ever looking at decisions, the lack of anybody ever being held to account, the numerous occasions when certain caveats, commercial confidentiality have been used to restrict Scrutiny, in those sorts of extraordinary circumstances I can see the merit of very occasional use of the functions you described.

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy Matthews.

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

Sir, the Public Accounts Committee used to attract large membership, including Deputy Helyar who was a past member. There were a lot of accountants who would willingly give some time to review and audit the functions of the States. Should the Public Accounts Committee be re-formed and, if so, how would this fit in with the potential proposal for an Audit Commission?

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy Sloan.

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**Deputy Sloan:** Deputy Matthews, my understanding is that the Financial Scrutiny Committee is the Public Accounts Committee, it is a sub-committee of the Scrutiny Management Committee and it is the same in name. It does not actually have to have a States' Member of the Scrutiny Committee to chair it, so you could effectively, if you so desire, populate it completely with external persons if you so wished. The process that you were talking about is there with the current arrangements. You can co-opt whomever you wish.

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** I recall the then Deputy Rhoderick Matthews, Deputy Matthews's father, was the inaugural Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. I believe there is a three-stage process to work through. The first is, if I was successful today I would want to work with the new Committee

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to create what would be effectively an internal, separate Public Accounts Committee focused on a contract budget transactions procurement.

The second stage might be that it would separate. The third stage might be that we have an Audit Commission that would be further separated, but that would require resources and Machinery of Government. I think there is an issue when Public Accounts is linked into the career Civil Service. I think the nature of this needs to be standalone than the Professional Services and is more effectively under the parliamentary team or what it would amount to, a commission or public officials.

**The Bailiff:** Your minute is up, Deputy Gollop.  
Deputy Helyar.

**Deputy Helyar:** Sir, during the last term, a report was published which was redacted so far in terms of an IT failure that it was almost extraordinary. I was in the room when it happened, it was almost pointless publishing it, and that is not to apportion blame to anybody. Would the candidates be willing to push back in terms of challenging the balance of public interest when such reports are being published in future in the interests of public information?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** In principle, yes, although I was on the other side of the fence on that particular issue because we had to balance transparency with not only commercial confidentiality but, more importantly, security of service for us as a Government and a State and as a community, so there were difficult decisions. In fact, I wanted to ask questions of the Scrutiny Report but decided, on reflection, not to do so, several Members may recall, in the autumn.

In principle, I think we may have to redact reports but we should do that as little as possible, which is another reason why I think Scrutiny and the Scrutiny function should be rather separated from the mainstream Civil Service.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Sloan.

**Deputy Sloan:** The short answer is yes on the basis that, for those with long enough memories, I think it was the first ever episode of *Yes Minister* with open Government when the files that were revealed had actually none left because of the floods, because of this, because of that, because of the other. Like I said, transparency and sunlight is the best disinfectant.

**The Bailiff:** Is there any Member who has not asked a question who wishes to do so? No? On that basis, Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** Candidates, I think it has been stated that the Scrutiny Management Committee costs us nigh on £600,00 a year. It costs us £600,000 a year, if you cannot hear me, Deputy Sloan. A lot of reports are produced and often they sit on a shelf or they have been redacted into oblivion by Deputy Helyar's consideration. How would candidates believe that future reports could feed into Committee performance or States' policy rather than just sitting on that shelf?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Sloan.

**Deputy Sloan:** Like I said, Deputy Inder, I would like to see a proactive Scrutiny process. I said to begin with, we are looking at one or two areas per year, and I think that is a collaborative approach; we need to identify that. If reports are proactive, they are timely, they are designed to be used as opposed to just responding to events and designed to be written. So designed to be used rather than designed to be written would be the approach that I would take.

3395 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** I would agree with that and say that one area I think we should look at, apart from the Nolan Principles of public life, is the duty of candour issue that is being looked at in the UK, and I think we should apply that here. Deputy Inder reminds me of another crucial point; I think too often over the years Scrutiny have not published the reports for debate in the Chamber, they have sometimes been an appendix or just done as a media release. I would like to see them published for debate in the States. I also believe that they should have better comms when they are published so they make a real impact and they have the right effect in stimulating conversation and change with issues.

3405 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Kazantseva-Miller.

**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Sir, the Scrutiny function contains the legislative review function as well, which is conducted through the Legislative Review Panel. In other parliaments, legislative scrutiny is conducted by second Chambers and certainly seems to have more eyes on legislative scrutiny. Do the candidates believe our legislative scrutiny is sufficient for our democratic process and how would they like to improve it?

3415 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** I remember when I was President of Legislation, we actually had a little bit of a controversy over a change in Law regarding the Chief of Police and the Chief of Borders because that intrigued Members and they talked about it afterwards. I think the mandate of the Legislation Panel is far too limited. It is basically there as a combination of proofreading and seeing whether it coheres with the original Resolutions of the States. It does not act as a Second Reading or even as a viability or cost. That is one point.

A second point is, I believe sometimes those meetings should be in public. The SAC Committee meetings are held in public but not the Legislation Review, and I think there are occasions when it should be in public. I do not believe we put enough effort into our legislative function, but of course the more effort you put in (1) there is a cost, and (2) there is also a delaying factor. It is a balance between improving the process and speed.

3425 **The Bailiff:** Your minute is up.  
Deputy Sloan, please.

3430 **Deputy Sloan:** Actually, as Deputy Gollop just said, the Legislation Review Committee, which is the old Legislative Select – and I worked with Deputy Gollop when he was on that – is effectively just a technical Committee checking with the *vires* and checking with the consistency of the legislation with the Resolution to the States. In terms of should it have a greater input, yes, it should, but so should Public Accounts, so should the board of scrutiny function.

As a States we probably do not provide sufficient resources across the three Scrutiny areas. Whether it would be a priority in terms of resourcing over what it has presently, do not forget it is populated by a lot of external members because of the sheer volume of work, and it is just impossible with the internal resources to get through the technical scrutiny.

3440 **The Bailiff:** Well if there are no more questions that you wish to ask to the candidates, then perhaps you would like to show your appreciation for their answers. (*Applause*)

I remind you that there are two candidates for the office of President of the Scrutiny Management Committee. They are Deputy Sloan, who is proposed by Deputy Burford and seconded

3445 by Deputy Helyar, and Deputy Gollop, proposed by Deputy Matthews and seconded by Deputy Hansmann Rouxel.

Are there any more voting slips to go to the Sheriff? So while the votes are being counted, I will retire briefly.

Thank you all very much.

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*The Assembly adjourned at 4.31 p.m.  
and resumed its sitting at 4.36 p.m.*

### **Scrutiny Management Committee – Deputy Andy Sloan elected President**

3455 **The Bailiff:** Members of the States, the voting in respect of the election of the President of the Scrutiny Management Committee is as follows: Deputy Sloan, who was proposed by Deputy Burford and seconded by Deputy Helyar secured 24 votes. Deputy Gollop, who was proposed by Deputy Matthews and seconded by Deputy Hansmann Rouxel secured 11 votes. There was one spoilt paper and no blank papers. Therefore I declare Deputy Sloan duly elected to that office. (Applause)

### **9. Development & Planning Authority – Election of President commenced**

Article 9.

*The States are asked:*

*To elect a sitting Member of the States as President of the Development & Planning Authority to serve until 30th June 2029 in accordance with Rule 16 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation as set out in Section 1 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees.*

3460 **The States' Greffier:** Article 9, Election of the President of the Development & Planning Authority.

**The Bailiff:** Are there any nominations for the presidency of the Development & Planning Authority?

3465 Deputy de Sausmarez.

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** Sir, I would like to nominate Deputy Yvonne Burford on behalf of the Policy & Resources Committee.

3470 **The Bailiff:** Is that nomination seconded?

**Deputy Falla:** It is, sir.

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

3475 Are there any other nominations for this presidency? On that basis I will invite Deputy de Sausmarez, who has proposed Deputy Burford, to speak to her candidature.

Deputy de Sausmarez, please.

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

3480 Deputy Burford is one of the most experienced Members of this Assembly and she has particular experience and expertise in planning matters. From the outset of her first term in the States, she was a member of the Environment Department, which at that time included the mandate for Planning. This gave her a good grounding in planning matters and when she stepped into the ministerial role in 2014 there was a notable gear shift in that particular area.

3485 One of the things that she quietly revolutionised was open planning meetings. Confidence in the process improved considerably once the process was seen to be much more professional and accountable under her competent leadership. In the most recent political term, Deputy Burford was, of course, a highly effective President for the Scrutiny Management Committee. Members will probably be familiar with the attributes that she brought to that role, top among them her evidently  
3490 logical and analytical mind and her calm, clear communication style.

The Development & Planning Authority is a challenging brief because it often touches people's lives in a material and personal way. It also shapes the look, feel and character of the Island, more than perhaps any other States' function. It is fair to say that the DPA in this most recent political term had a bit of a rough ride and public confidence in the authority was a little undermined.

3495 I can think of no better person than Deputy Burford to restore public confidence. She is very popular with the public, having come second in the general election with nearly 9,500 votes. That is a very strong mandate and I am really pleased for the Development & Planning Authority that she has chosen to focus her considerable talents there.

I believe that Deputy Burford would have made an excellent member of the Policy & Resources  
3500 Committee but it is testament to her strong sense of public service that she decided, as she saw a strong team take shape, that she would add best value to the Assembly at the helm of the DPA instead. I have every confidence that she will. She knows planning policies and procedures inside out, she is rigorously independent and fair. She is a strong supporter of the Housing agenda, but she also well understands and successfully navigates some of the tensions between development  
3505 in other land uses.

She values openness, transparency and public engagement and, to put it plainly, she is good at it. If anyone can improve the Planning Service and strengthen the community's confidence in the DPA it is Deputy Burford, so I ask Members to please support her, as the voting public have done in such numbers, in her chosen preferred role in the States.

3510 Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** I now invite Deputy Burford to speak for up to 10 minutes on her candidature. Deputy Burford, please.

3515 **Deputy Burford:** Thank you, sir.

Firstly, I would like to thank the new President of the Policy & Resources Committee for proposing me, and Deputy Falla for seconding my nomination. It is a privilege to stand as a candidate for the President of the Development & Planning Authority, a Committee whose work shapes the very fabric of our Island.

3520 I do not come unprepared to this role. As Deputy de Sausmarez has mentioned, my experience includes four years on the forerunner of the DPA, including two as President, during which I oversaw the transition from the old Rural and Urban Area Plans to the Island Development Plan. In that capacity I personally reviewed every single representation from our community, thousands in total, and read the IDP from cover to cover more than once.

3525 My other States' experience is across Environment, Public Services, Scrutiny and its panels and SACC, including chairing the first Scrutiny public hearing into the DPA last term. In the last Assembly I stood for DPA member vacancies as they arose and though I narrowly missed out, my continued interest in the Committee's work has never wavered.

3530 It is fashionable to be critical of Planning. Almost everyone has a story, and sometimes a frustrating one, about the planning process. Like Traffic, Planning touches on every life on this

Island, but I believe there is real scope to change the public perception and that starts with good communication and clearly articulated evidence-based decisions. But it does not end there.

At a high level the DPA's mandate is a simple one: to balance the needs and wants of infrastructure, housing, offices, industrial spaces, green spaces, biodiversity and more, all within just 25 square miles. The job is to perform that difficult balancing act, ensuring that Guernsey remains a vibrant, sustainable and beautiful place to live and work.

The most pressing workstream right now is the focused review of the IDP. This review should have taken place in 2021 at the five-year anniversary of the IDP but was delayed by the pandemic. We are now at the nine-year point; we are halfway through that interim review and there is a full review due next year. Housing and employment land supply are at the heart of this interim focused review.

Crucially, the zero-rating of GP11 in the last term means that designating sites for affordable housing is now a top priority as these homes were not and will not be delivered under the previous policy. The need for affordable and diverse housing is urgent and the focused review will be the Committee's first priority.

Highly relevant to all this is the Assembly's approval at the end of the last term of a policy letter to streamline and simplify the process for amending the IDP. Preparation of legislation is now well underway, to be followed by statutory guidance enabling substantial relaxations to the plan amendment process. Taken together, the focused review and the new ability to make standalone changes mean that the 10-year comprehensive review due next year should be deferred. With the Committee's support, I would bring proposals to the Assembly to that effect.

The IDP is rooted in the SLUP, which is due for review in 2031, 20 years after its adoption in 2011. The SLUP sits under Environment and Infrastructure but there is a strong case for reviewing it a few years earlier and feeding that work into the deferred 10-year review of the IDP. This would be a much more efficient use of resources and would result in a more up-to-date development plan to guide the Island forward.

Much has been done in the last term to simplify the planning process by creating further exemptions, a process begun in my first term on Planning. I am committed to continuing this theme, making the system more accessible and less bureaucratic for Islanders and businesses alike. If elected as President, I will build on these strong foundations with a clear vision for the DPA that is responsive, innovative and forward looking.

There are many other opportunities for further improvement. To help address the housing crisis, as President I would work closely with the new Housing Committee regarding delivery measures where these have land use implications. I will look to prioritise planning applications for housing. Other measures that will assist in housing delivery include greater working with consultees as part of a development team approach to help achieve swifter turnarounds.

Frontloading of processes and solutions, for example, in relation to traffic, which is so often perceived as a stumbling block to development, will help accelerate delivery. Modern methods of construction which allow for quicker delivery can already be considered through planning and building control regulations, and as techniques change, we need to adapt.

I would aim to continue the work of simplifying and focusing development framework so they are only required where they can add the most value. With the local planning brief and the development frameworks now in place for the Harbour Action Areas, I look forward to our exciting developments coming forward on our east coast.

Open planning meetings were introduced just before the 2012 term. When I became Minister for the Environment in 2014 I made a conscious decision to raise the profile of these meetings and not shy away from them when they were justified. I believe that spirit has been somewhat lost over the last two terms, leading to public disquiet. If elected, I would seek to strengthen open planning meetings as a vital part of openness and transparency.

There is also a strong case for considering live streaming them to reach a wider audience and to further demystify the planning process. I am aware that there is a view in some quarters that holding open meetings can slow down the application process too much. However, I believe that if a

decision to go to an open planning meeting is made early in the process, it should not create an appreciable delay.

3585 I think there is immense scope this term to embrace IT improvements, and AI in particular to enhance the way we work. There is significant potential to achieve some of the efficiencies that have long been discussed but have proved difficult to implement in practice. Some work is already being undertaken on AI handling of certain enquiries but there is much more that we can do.

3590 Over the last two terms since the change of the Machinery of Government, the DPA has not sought to have non-States' Members on the Committee. It would be my intention if elected to allow the Committee six months or so to settle in and evaluate where we might have gaps. With the agreement of the Committee, and following the procedure as set out in Rule 46(1), and the guidance from SACC, would look to appoint one or two people.

3595 In summary, I believe the best results come from listening, learning and leading with integrity. As President, I recognise that land use policy is interconnected with housing, transport, environment, economic development and our Island's prosperity. I will work with other Committees to understand their perspectives while retaining the necessary independence of a statutory authority.

3600 I am open to challenge and new ideas and willing to adapt when the evidence demands it. As a personal commitment, I am currently an ordinary member of La Société Council. However, to avoid any potential or perceived conflict of interest, I will immediately resign that position if elected to this role today.

3605 The decisions we make about land use, development and planning will shape our Island for decades to come. We need a DPA that is not only efficient and fair, but also ambitious and imaginative, one that can assist in the delivery of homes, jobs and prosperity, while protecting the environment and heritage that make Guernsey unique. I offer you a proven track record of leadership, a deep understanding of the issues, and a commitment to innovation and consultation. I ask for your support to lead the Development & Planning Authority.

Thank you.

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**The Bailiff:** Well, Members of the States, there is a single candidate for the President of the Development & Planning Authority and that is Deputy Burford, proposed by Deputy de Sausmarez and seconded by Deputy Falla. If you wish to support her nomination, then please write her name on a sheet of paper. Are there any more voting slips that need to be handed to the Sheriff? No?

3615 I think we will just move straight on to the next Item of business, please, Greffier.

## **10. Overseas Aid & Development Commission – Election of President commenced**

*Article 10.*

*The States are asked:*

*To elect a sitting Member of the States as President of the Overseas Aid & Development Commission to serve until 30th June 2029 in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation as set out in Section 1 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees.*

**The States' Greffier:** Article 10, Election of the President of the Overseas Aid & Development Commission.

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**The Bailiff:** This can only be elected on the nomination of the Policy & Resources Committee. Therefore, I will turn to Deputy de Sausmarez to see who has been proposed.

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** Sir, the Policy & Resources Committee would like to nominate Deputy Jennifer Strachan.

**The Bailiff:** Is that nomination seconded?

**Deputy Falla:** It is, sir.

**The Bailiff:** Thank you very much, Deputy Falla.  
Therefore, without further ado I will invite Deputy de Sausmarez to speak to the candidature of Deputy Strachan.  
Deputy de Sausmarez, please.

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

It occurs to me that some of the new Members in particular might not be particularly familiar with the Overseas Aid & Development Commission, but it is a body that distributes money provided by the States to charities undertaking development and humanitarian work in the world's least developed countries. It is obviously an important contribution in that respect in its own right, but I think it also plays a really important ambassadorial role for the Island.

I would like to start by thanking the outgoing President of the Overseas Aid & Development Commission, Deputy Blin, who has done fantastic things for that organisation and really taken it to another level. I hope that that good work will be built upon and progressed.

Deputy Strachan has worked extensively with the local business community and organisations for decades. Her significant experience as an executive and non-executive director gives her a strong background in governance. She has over 30 years' strong track record in the finance industry and her experience in sustainable investment and impact investing in particular gives her financial expertise in a wide range of sectors relevant to this Commission, including investing in the Guernsey Development Impact Fund.

Her experience on the grant-giving and fundraising committees of the Guernsey Arts has given her valuable experience analysing grant applications and working closely with those in our community who so generously donate to good causes.

Finally, as CEO of Startup Guernsey she has experience supporting local entrepreneurs, many of whom have social impact goals which have a clear relevance to the objectives of the Guernsey Development Impact Fund. She has presented a compelling vision to ensure that the community sees the impact of funds allocated to the Commission which are then granted onwards to help the vulnerable throughout the world.

Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** I now invite Deputy Strachan to speak for up to 10 minutes on her candidature.  
Deputy Strachan, please.

**Deputy Strachan:** Thank you, sir.

Thank you to the Policy & Resources Committee and to Deputy de Sausmarez and Deputy Falla for proposing and seconding me for the role of President of the Overseas Aid & Development Commission. I am so proud of the work that this Commission does, as should all members of our community.

The previous President of the Committee, Deputy Blin, did a sterling job steering the Commission through the rocky road of COVID. This pandemic strikes at the core of the role of the Commission to protect the world's most vulnerable from circumstances beyond their control. I would look forward to working with the commissioners and the many partners which it works closely with to continue to enhance the good work that has been done to date. The charities who receive overseas aid grants are making a real difference in the lives of so many around the world who struggle with famine, natural and man-made disasters.



When I met with the P&R Committee about this role, I noted that our budget is tiny but important. It is important for supporting vulnerable communities where even a small donation can make the difference between life and death. It is important for demonstrating that we are doing the right thing as a relatively well-off Island.

3680 To be honest, it is also important to be a part of how we demonstrate what our values are. I want to be part of a conversation with our community about what those values are and to show how, yet again, we punch above our weight and make a difference. Of course, we need to maintain clear due diligence of the funds we grant and I would look to use my governance experience providing grants with Guernsey Arts to ensure that we continue our due diligence toward the use of funds as intended.

3685 The Commission's grants are varied from supporting the work done by local charities, so just amplifying the excellent work of the School Farms Africa, to helping to fund essential international projects such as the UNICEF UK Vaccine Aid Appeal which supported vaccine access for the world's most vulnerable. In this case, this was a true community effort as the Government matched a Guernsey public appeal. I would look forward to carrying on the excellent work of the Commission to deepening these partnerships.

3690 A further success of the previous term was the introduction of multiyear project grant aid awards. This form of grant makes our impact go further, as it allows the grantees certainty of funding over the medium term, which then results in better impact. I would look forward to developing these further.

3695 Many may not know this but we also have a small investment in an Impact Investment Fund as part of our commitment to supporting overseas development which is held in the Guernsey Development Impact Fund. This is a fund which invests in social enterprises that provide both financial returns and measurable positive social and environmental impact. This means our money goes further and we can be part of some real success stories.

3700 I am particularly proud of this initiative as I wrote a report for the States on impact investing in 2018 when I was part of IAM Advisory who were the investment advisers to the States at the time. I am delighted that this work has come to fruition and would work to share more of its results.

3705 There are some great stories of the impact the Commission makes on the global stage and I would aim to share these with the community. The impact we have made is important to shout about, not just for us as taxpayers to understand where our money is going and what it is doing, but also for those in the international community who want to work with local businesses and engage with us in diplomatic initiatives and expect that we are supporting those less fortunate than ourselves. Our Guernsey Together values should be on show for the world and the Guernsey Overseas Aid & Development Commission is key to doing this. I am grateful to the Policy & Resources Committee for having faith in me to carry out this role.

3710 Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** Well, Members of the States, there is the single candidate for the presidency of the Overseas Aid & Development Commission. That is Deputy Strachan who is proposed by Deputy de Sausmarez and seconded by Deputy Falla. If you wish to support that nomination, please write Deputy Strachan's name on a piece of paper and pass it to the Sheriff when it is being collected. Are there any voting slips that have not been passed to the Sheriff?

**Development & Planning Authority –  
Deputy Yvonne Burford elected as President**

3720 **The Bailiff:** Let me next announce the results of the election of the President of the Development & Planning Authority and there is one candidate, Deputy Burford proposed by Deputy de Sausmarez and seconded by Deputy Falla and Deputy Burford received 32 votes. There was one

spoilt paper and three blank papers and therefore I declare Deputy Burford elected to that presidency.

3725 We will move on to the next item of business, please.

### **11. States' Assembly and Constitution Committee – Election of President commenced**

*Article 11.*

*The States are asked:*

*To decide to elect a sitting Member of the States as President of the States' Assembly and Constitution Committee to serve until 30th June 2029 in accordance with Rule 16 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation as set out in Section 1 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees.*

**The States' Greffier:** Article 11, Election of the President of the States' Assembly and Constitution Committee.

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**The Bailiff:** Are there any nominations?  
Deputy de Sausmarez.

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** I would like to nominate Deputy Sarah Hansmann Rouxel for this role.

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**Deputy Montague:** I second that, sir.

**The Bailiff:** Okay. Are there any other candidates for the presidency of the States' Assembly and Constitution Committee? Okay, in that case, I will invite Deputy de Sausmarez to speak about Deputy Hansmann Rouxel's candidature.  
Deputy de Sausmarez, please.

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

Deputy Hansmann Rouxel needs little introduction to anyone involved in the arts locally but she need some introduction to the Members of the States today who did not have the fortune to serve in 2016-20 States.

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Outside the States, Deputy Hansmann Rouxel has spent her professional life – over 30 years in fact – training people to work together effectively using the principle of applied improvisation. Her career has centred around communication, collaboration and helping groups navigate change. She was first elected in 2016 alongside me and, during that time, she served, as I did, on the Committee for the Environment & Infrastructure. So I can personally testify to her rigorous intellect and powers of analysis that she demonstrated during that time. I was always in awe of it.

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She was appointed the States' Disability Champion, a role that is largely independent of the States, that involved both scrutiny of policy and processes and bridging the gap between the charity sector and Government. She also sat on the Review Panel of Members' Code of Conduct which led to the creation of the role for Commissioner for Standards. She was instrumental in the introduction of proper induction for new States' Members following its absence in 2016 and supported SACC's work at the end of the 2020 term to formalise this process going forward.

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Throughout the term, she provided broad, forensic and well-researched analysis on complex policy areas including assisted dying, Abortion Law reform and a historically grounded review of the various models of secondary education. This attention to detail is part of the skillset required for this role. She was also a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and, in that role, represented Guernsey at a meeting in Gibraltar. In short, Deputy Hansmann Rouxel has

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significant past parliamentary experience which is so essential to this role. She understands the significance and importance of the Committee and its work and our whole system of Government.

She has a work ethic which few in this place can match and she will need it because the task list in the Committee's in-tray is significant with many extant resolutions to discharge including considering the number of Deputies required in our committee system of Government, reflecting on the general election and recommending any changes for the next one, reviewing the States of Election for the Jurats, the implementation of the decisions made in last year's requête on the Latimer House Principles, and these are all topics that require passion and commitment under tension but are Deputy Hansmann Rouxel's forte.

I have no hesitation and, indeed, take great delight in recommending Deputy Hansmann Rouxel as a President of the States' Assembly and Constitution Committee, a Committee that I was once a member of as well. I commend her very much to colleagues and encourage all Members to support her.

Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** I now invite Deputy Hansmann Rouxel to speak for up to 10 minutes on her candidature.

Deputy Hansmann Rouxel.

**Deputy Hansmann Rouxel:** Thank you; and thank you to Deputy de Sausmarez for proposing me and her speech, and for Deputy Montague for seconding.

I am standing for the Presidency of SACC because I care deeply about how we function as an Assembly, how we support each other, how we work together and how we ensure this Parliament is effective, inclusive and focused on what matters. SACC's responsibilities are fundamental. It oversees the functioning of the States of Deliberation, reviews the rules of procedure and is responsible for the induction and ongoing development of Members. These things might not grab headlines but they do shape everything that we do.

Although I have not been a Member this last term, I have followed proceedings closely and, for newer Members, it might not be immediately obviously, but the reforms already put in place through the Latimer House Principles requête are already making a difference. These subtle changes make things work very differently to how they did when I was part of the Assembly five years ago. That work is ongoing and SACC has a crucial role to play in delivering it fully.

I know that SACC already has important workstreams underway examining the number of Deputies for the next term, exploring the creation of a dedicated elections body and reviewing the role of the States of Election. These pieces of work are well in motion and I fully support their delivery, and I will fully support their delivery with the same rigour and depth of analysis that I brought to my first term in the States. But alongside that, I want to offer something different in the role. One of the most important parts of SACC's mandate is ensuring that Members are well supported at the beginning of the term through the Induction Programme, yes, but also throughout it.

I want to use this role to make sure that both new and returning Members are supported in developing their understanding, refining their skills and navigating the often complex responsibilities we all carry. The more informed we are, the more confident we can be in our work and the better we serve the people of Guernsey. I would also want to use this role to support this diverse and inclusive Assembly by asking how we can make it easier for every Member to participate fully and that means thinking practically about reasonable adjustment and not just to Members with disabilities but for everyone.

Whether it is communication, physical access, meeting formats or procedural clarity, if we get these things right, we make this workplace better for all of us. It is my work as the Disability Champion and my background in collective working and training that I believe gives me the unique ability to add this facet to the role. I also believe we need to be honest about the mental health impact of this role. Like all modern workplaces, we should recognise that States' Members are

human and that the pressures and expectations we face can sometimes feel overwhelming. It is not a weakness to acknowledge this. It a strength.

I would like to see us introduce mental health first aid training for Members so that we can better support each other and better understand what to do when colleagues are struggling. If we want a functional Parliament, we need a healthy Parliament. Supporting mental health well-being is not a luxury. It makes us more productive, more resilient and better able to deliver for the people of Guernsey.

One thing that stood out for me outside the Chamber last term was how easily some debates on SACC policy slipped into what I could politely call navel-gazing. Of course our Rules of Procedure are important. They shape how we work together and how we make decisions, but when we spend two days debating minor changes to procedure, I think it is fair to say that something has gone wrong. I want to keep the rules under review but I want that to happen in the right space and with the right process.

So while I would absolutely continue the practice of holding SACC meetings open to the media and all Members, I would go further. I would introduce quarterly interactive sessions where Members can bring ideas, ask questions and test proposals for changes to the rules outside the debating Chamber. These sessions would allow Members to work through together before anything reaches the Assembly floor, and the aim is to avoid lengthy strings of amendments and to prevent the kind of procedure sprawl we have seen in the past.

It also means proposers are better developed, better understood and more likely to gain support. We have already seen questions raised around things like declaring interests and recusals from Committee meetings. Where rules appear to be obstructing rather than support the proper functioning of our Committees, then SACC should be prepared to take a second look and come up with a solution. With this more collaborative approach involving Members, I believe we can. SACC may be made up of five Members but it exists to serve all of us. I want to make sure it does.

And this brings me on to the last part, which is the Election Review and Island-wide voting. One of SACC's first formal tasks this term will be to lay a policy letter reporting on the 2025 General Election. That will provide a strong starting point for a wider review of Island-wide voting and an opportunity to build on the excellent groundwork carried out by Scrutiny in last term.

The review should be open, inclusive and evidence-led. It should engage not only with voters and candidates but also with people who did not register or did not vote. We need to understand why and be willing to listen. Whether the right solution turns out to be a complete overhaul or just a few targeted improvements, we need to be open to all possibilities and we must approach that discussion with honesty, clarity and a genuine willingness to learn from the experience. We have a responsibility not just to manage elections but to make sure people feel that their voice matters and that the system works for them.

In closing, the SACC is the Committee that holds up the mirror to how we work. It helps us create the conditions in which Members can best do their work and, through that, helps the States deliver for the people of Guernsey. If elected, I would lead the Committee that is visible and accessible to all Members focussed on improving how we work and, not just on what we work on, and would be committed to supporting the development, well-being and inclusion of every Member.

I am willing to take a constructive evidence-based approach to reform. I want to help make this Assembly function better, more clearly, more confidently and with more space for each of us doing our jobs well.

Thank you. I hope to have your support.

**The Bailiff:** Well, Members of the States, there is a single candidate for the President of the States' Assembly and Constitution Committee. That is Deputy Hansmann Rouxel proposed by Deputy de Sausmarez and seconded by Deputy Montague. So if you wish to support that nomination, please write Deputy Hansmann Rouxel's name on a sheet of paper which will be collected by the Sheriff. Are there any more voting slips? In that case, those votes will be counted.

**Overseas Aid & Development Commission –  
Deputy Jennifer Strachan elected as President**

3870 **The Bailiff:** Let me deal with the election of the President of the Overseas Aid & Development Commission. There was a single candidate Deputy Strachan, proposed by Deputy de Sausmarez and seconded by Deputy Falla, and Deputy Strachan received 34 votes. There were no spoilt papers but there were two blank papers and, therefore, I declare her duly elected as that President. *(Applause)*

We will take the next item of business, please, Greffier.

**12. States' Trading Supervisory Board –  
Election of President commenced**

3875

*Article 12.*

*The States are asked:*

*To elect a sitting Member of the States as President of the States' Trading Supervisory Board to serve until 30th June 2029 in accordance with Rule 16 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation as set out in Section 1 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees.*

**The States' Greffier:** Article 12, Election of the President of the States' Trading Supervisory Board.

3880 **The Bailiff:** I will turn to the President of Policy & Resources Committee, Deputy de Sausmarez to see if she has a nomination.

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** I do, sir. We would like to nominate Deputy Mark Helyar for the role.

3885 **The Bailiff:** And that is seconded by Deputy Falla again, is it?

**Deputy Falla:** Yes, sir.

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

3890 Are there any other candidates being proposed for the presidency of the States' Trading Supervisory Board? No. In that case, I will invite Deputy de Sausmarez to speak for up to five minutes about Deputy Helyar.

Deputy de Sausmarez, please.

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

3895 I am very pleased to nominate Deputy Mark Helyar as President of the States' Trading Supervisory Board. I will keep this fairly brief because we have already heard this week at length about Deputy Helyar and seen him in action answering questions in the election for the role of President of Policy & Resources. I think it will be evident to everyone that his experience at a senior level in the States and his performance this week shows that he is entirely capable of assuming a  
3900 presidency of a major Committee and I am very happy to recommend his appointment on that basis.

I wanted to draw Members' attention though to a few things that were perhaps not highlighted earlier in the week which are directly relevant to the supervisory role of the STSB. Deputy Helyar has extensive and current commercial experience as a director of commercial entities and enacting as a shareholder representative for business owners and investors across many sectors of the finance industry and other business sectors in Guernsey and further afield including Fintech Insurance, shipping and banking.

He also has experience, possibly unique in this Assembly, of acting as an independent director of entities owned by foreign governments and governmental organisations. His commercial law experience includes acting for entities in their acquisition and sale, advising on and drafting regulation and legislation in Guernsey and elsewhere and advising on and managing governance issues including directors' statutory and fiduciary duties as well as acting for the States to obtain Guernsey's first company director disqualification.

We are all familiar with Deputy Helyar's political career, including his involvement in the creation of the Development Agency, the Investment Board, the Tax Review and his extensive financial work in preparing and delivering four Budgets. He has thought carefully about this role and he and I have discussed his ideas in some detail. Now I do not mind admitting that my starting point was somewhat nervous, not because for a moment I doubted his competence, but because, historically, we have taken quite different positions on some policy matters pertaining to the STSB. However, through our conversations, he has won my confidence and indeed P&R's endorsement.

He also has a detailed insight into our financial circumstances and I am sure that this will inform his stewardship of this important Board. His trading entities provide the infrastructure backbone of Guernsey's economy and its vital transport links. If the lights go out, the Airport is closed, there is no milk delivery or your drains are blocked, the buck stops at STSB. So I ask for Members' support in appointing Deputy Helyar as P&R's nominee for the President of the States' Trading Supervisory Board.

Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** I will now invite Deputy Helyar to speak for up to 10 minutes on his candidature. Deputy Helyar, please.

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

I will be brief. We should hit our deadline. Thank you to Deputy de Sausmarez for her kind words and thank you to P&R more generally for its support. The issues facing many of our trading assets are a microcosm of Guernsey's wider problems; failing infrastructure, thin capitalisation and reliance on a Government which is running out of money, rising prices due to energy and raw material costs and the influence of inflation and global supply chains and macroeconomics.

Over the past decade, our trading entities have made significant consolidated losses impacting on our revenues and reserves and still have significant need of further capital and revenue with a growing list of maintenance, project costs and repairs amounting to many tens of millions. We need to continue to pursue the planned incorporation of our remaining unincorporated entities. We have seen the benefits of this model with Guernsey Electricity and Guernsey Post, greater commercial discipline, quicker decision-making and the ability to invest in infrastructure while being slightly less hamstrung by bureaucratic or political inertia.

I must emphasise I am not proposing privatisation but modernisation ensuring that our public assets are managed with the efficiency and flexibility that today's environment demands. The Board must focus on strategic oversight and performance assessment. Our role is to set clear, long-term objectives, infrastructure investment plans, entity-specific performance indicators and robust objectives for public pricing, financial sustainability, reliability and service quality.

We must ensure investment decisions are made for the long-term benefit of Guernsey and not short-term expediency, but trading entities cannot operate in a vacuum. Less excess demands close collaboration with other States' Committees on environmental policy, economy strategy and public

welfare. I will seek to maintain and strengthen these links ensuring joined up policy that delivers for the whole Island.

3955 Now let us address perhaps the largest immediate issue which is Aurigny. We need, as a Government, to consider whether the objective for which we purchased Aurigny – which was originally to safeguard slots at Gatwick – remains the same or whether the objective could be satisfied in a different or most cost-effective way. Recent events mean that the public and our industries clearly demand more competitive pricing and higher reliability.

3960 We also need to be able to take into account the wider economic impacts and reputational issues of not having effective, reliable and reasonably-priced connectivity on our economy so that we are making decisions as an Assembly based on the full costs and impacts as well as the opportunities Guernsey is missing. Calculating that wider benefit is not itself a role for STSB but it should clearly inform the strategic decision-making process.

3965 This brings me to my fundamental point. It is very important for Members to understand that the STSB is a policy taker and not a policymaker. It cannot and, indeed, is not responsible for formulating policy and neither is it strictly an operational remit but the outputs of the entities which it oversees have a direct and substantial effect on our economy, the environmental and our general well-being.

3970 Our governance of this entity and all the others is currently rather confused. STSB is the shareholder representative, P&R is the creditor and the policy framework within which the different entities operate is set predominantly by Environment & Infrastructure and Economic Development. The needs and priorities of these different entities are, to a large extent, pulling our trading entities via a tangled Gordian Knot in sometimes quite different directions. This means there is a need for meaningful and frequent interaction between the STSB, P&R and other Committees and their officers to regularly consider issues as they arise.

3975 Now to enhance the level of that policy interaction, it is my intention to also stand for a seat on the E&I Committee nominated by its President Deputy Gabriel. One of my nominees, Deputy Niles, also intends to stand for a seat on Economic Development to form a further policy bridge. My other  
3980 nominee will be Deputy Kay-Mouat. Both of these candidates have extensive and successful business, governance and finance experience making for a very strong Board. Both of these individuals have proven real-world experience and breadth of skills which are, in my view, essential to this role and its current challenges.

3985 Perhaps the most pressing infrastructure issues for all of us, and which falls with the STSB remit, is that of Alderney's failing runway. My first objective will be for STSB to find a cheaper and simpler solution to the plans formerly placed before the Assembly in conjunction with P&R, our paymaster. Failure to find a solution at pace risks a physical failure with a more significant impact on many of our budgets. This is another good example of where this Assembly must demonstrate, both locally and to the outside world, that it can effectively govern its affairs.

3990 Members, there is a reasonably long list in STSB of problems which need to be managed and resolved. Acting as a chairman, director and non-executive shareholder representative is absolutely my sweet spot from a skills and experience perspective. I have a pragmatic business-like agenda and team, one that understands that STSB is a functionary rather than a policymaker which will respect Guernsey's traditions and, importantly, the competing interest in these key Island assets,  
3995 but is also unafraid to modernise for the challenges ahead.

I ask for your support to deliver this mandate as your President of the States' Trading Supervisory Board.

Thank you.

4000 **The Bailiff:** Well, Members of the States, there is a single candidate for the presidency of the Overseas Aid & Development Commission. That is Deputy Helyar who is proposed by Deputy de Sausmarez and seconded by Deputy Falla. If you wish to support that nomination, then please write Deputy Helyar's name on a piece of paper which will be collected. Are there any more voting slips?

**States' Assembly and Constitution Committee –  
Deputy Sarah Hansmann Rouxel elected as President**

4005

The Bailiff: Well, while those votes are being counted, what I will do is I will declare the results on the election of the President of the States' Assembly and Constitution Committee. There was a single candidate, Deputy Hansmann Rouxel proposed by Deputy de Sausmarez and seconded by Deputy Montague and she received 28 votes. There were two spoilt papers and there were six blank papers, but I declare Deputy Hansmann Rouxel elected to that presidency.

4010

**Procedural –  
Complete business of this meeting today –  
Motion carried**

4015

**The Bailiff:** It is four minutes before the end of today's session but you only have one more President to elect so what I am going to put to you is that we complete all the presidential elections today so that everyone can go away and start finding their teams for the elections that will take place on Monday. So the procedural motion is that we sit to complete the business of this meeting. Those in favour? Those against?

4020

*Members voted Pour.*

**The Bailiff:** I will declare that carried.

**13. Transport Licensing Authority –  
Election of President commenced**

*Article 13.*

*The States are asked:*

*To elect a sitting Member of the States as President of the Transport Licensing Authority to serve until 30th June 2029 in accordance with Rule 16 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation as set out in Section 1 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees.*

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**The States' Greffier:** Article 13, Election of the President for the Transport Licensing Authority.

**The Bailiff:** Are there any nominations for this key presidency?

4030

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** Sir, on behalf of the Policy & Resources Committee, I would like to nominate Deputy John Gollop for this.

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

Is Deputy John Gollop's nomination seconded? Yes?

4035

**Deputy Falla:** Yes, sir.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Falla.



Are there any other candidates who want to be a President? No. On that basis, I will invite Deputy de Sausmarez to speak about Deputy Gollop for up to five minutes.

4040 Deputy de Sausmarez, please.

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

4045 The Transport Licensing Authority has not historically been the busiest of Committees but it is nonetheless an Authority that we do need to constitute. We definitely need to have it there because it may well be that more regulatory functions are transferred to it, and I can think of no better candidate than Deputy Gollop whose experience of the States, as we have heard already just a short time ago, is unparalleled.

4050 I will keep this very short because I think all Members are very well aware of his strengths and his abilities and I do not think I need to recommend him any further than is self-evident, so I would very much like to recommend his nomination for this particular role.

Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** I will now turn to Deputy Gollop to speak about his candidature.

4055 Deputy Gollop, please.

**Deputy Gollop:** Thank you very much to the new Chief Minister, President of Policy & Resources Deputy de Sausmarez and you, sir.

4060 I am sure people do not want me to speak for the full 10 minutes. I can read the room on this and I would just point out that I sat on the Committee during the late great former Deputy Barry Paint here as President in 2016 to 2020 and took over for three years, and my successor was Deputy David de Lisle and, throughout, I was supported by, among others, Deputy Blin and Deputy McKenna.

4065 I shall briefly outline the Transport Licensing Authority. It determines applications for Guernsey Air Transport Licences, but only those which are lifeline routes, because we have open skies in other respects. It does not apply to European services either. The lifeline routes are Guernsey to Alderney, Guernsey to London Gatwick and Guernsey to Southampton and that was based in a States' result in 2018. We approved proposals for the Committee *for* Economic Development for quasi-open skies.

4070 Now what I will point out here is it is a quasi-regulatory body and a quasi-judicial Committee. There was one occasion a number of years ago when we came close to a judicial review situation and we have to be careful what we say in public like you do on certain other Committees. The Constitution is notable.

4075 It is a President and four members who shall be Members of the States provided that neither the President nor any member of the Transport Licensing Authority shall be the President or member of the Policy & Resources Committee – that is why I left before – or the President or a member of the Committee *for* Economic Development or the President or a member of the Committee *for the* Environment & Infrastructure or the President or a Member of the States' Trading Supervisory Board.

4080 So some of the outstanding candidates Deputy Helyar was referring to would not wish to sit on this Committee because you will prevent them standing for the Committees that they may be more useful for. The point I am making here is that this is a particular function that should not be seen as partial and, inevitably, it restricts. I nevertheless, assuming I am elected President, would welcome membership from States of Guernsey Members that have on occasion included States of Alderney Members as well.

4085 One has to bear in mind that there are, to a certain extent, restrictions on membership, as I have said, and also freedom of speech but, at the moment though the Committee has limited mandate. We were, at one point, to have ferry railway ramps but that has now been done in a different way through Economic Development and we have not got any transport links.

4090 I make two further comments. The Chief Minister, Deputy de Sausmarez, is right that there may well be a changing situation. We have seen at least two airlines in the last year or so having black swan moments and changing of thinking on certain key routes so that is something to monitor and be aware of, and to take note too of technological developments as well.

Thank you.

4095 **The Bailiff:** Well, Members of the States, there is the single candidate for the presidency of the Transport Licensing Authority. That is Deputy Gollop proposed by Deputy de Sausmarez and seconded by Deputy Falla. If you wish to support that nomination, please write Deputy Gollop's name on a piece of paper and the Sheriff will collect it.

Are there any more voting slips to be handed to the Sheriff?

### **States' Trading Supervisory Board – Deputy Mark Helyar elected as President**

4100 **The Bailiff:** Let me proceed by declaring the results of the election of the President of the States' Trading Supervisory Board where there was a single candidate, Deputy Helyar proposed by Deputy de Sausmarez and seconded by Deputy Falla and he secured 30 votes. There was one spoilt paper and there were four blank papers. I declare him elected as the President of the States' Trading Supervisory Board. *(Applause)*

### **Procedural – Acceptable forms of address and seating arrangements**

4110 **The Bailiff:** While we are waiting for the results of the presidency of the Transport Licensing Authority, let me explain what is going to happen on Monday. The two Alderney Representatives will take their customary seats on Monday, which means that Deputy Kay-Mouat and Deputy Camp will have to find somewhere else to go.

4115 What will also happen is that because all the Presidents will have been elected, the Presidents of the principal Committees along with the President of the Development & Planning Authority and the President of the States' Trading Supervisory Board will be up on the bench, as will the Vice-President of the Policy & Resources Committee. In the dock, it will be the President of the States' Assembly and Constitution Committee, the President of the Scrutiny Management Committee, the President of the Overseas Aid & Development Commission and then where Deputy Helyar is currently sitting, Deputy Gollop will take that seat.

4120 So what we will do is I will do my best to try and work out the order in which you are going to sit. It may not be this, but next to His Excellency, it is potentially going to be Deputy Leadbeater, Deputy Burford, Deputy Gabriel, Deputy Kazantseva-Miller and Deputy Oswald. Then beside Deputy de Sausmarez will be Deputy St Pier, Deputy Bury, Deputy Helyar, Deputy Montague and Deputy Williams. That is done in order of seniority in the time that you have spent in the States, which is similar to the description I have just described about the dock with the States' Assembly and Constitution Committee, as Deputy Hansmann Rouxel was previously. Whereas, Deputy Sloan and Deputy Strachan have not, so they will go in that order in the dock.

4130 I will do some more filing, shall I? *(Laughter)* Now during the course of these election meetings, if people are referring to Members incorrectly, it is not a problem, so using people's first names, referring to the Alderney Representatives as Deputies, which they are not. Then after the election meeting on Monday – and hopefully we will rattle through all of these fairly swiftly – we will find, once the special meeting for the Accounts and the ordinary meeting the following week take place

– and it will be the Deputy Presiding Officer because I will be away who will be presiding – if the Deputy Presiding Officer hears somebody described incorrectly, then it is likely that she will jump down your throat. So please try and avoid that happening moving forward.

4135 One of the rules that Deputy de Sausmarez has just highlighted to me is that when any Member is speaking in debate outside of the election meetings, you always address me or the Deputy Presiding Officer. You do not address another Member directly. If you need to refer to anyone who has already spoken, then it is better to refer to Deputy X or Deputy Y.

**Transport Licensing Authority –  
Deputy John Gollop elected as President**

4140 **The Bailiff:** I can now announce the election of the President of the Transport Licensing Authority. There was a single candidate, Deputy Gollop proposed by Deputy de Sausmarez and seconded by Deputy Falla, and he received 31 votes. There were no spoilt papers but there were five blank papers and therefore I declare him duly elected to that presidency.

4145 That concludes the business for today, so I will ask the Greffier to close the meeting, please.

*The Assembly adjourned at 5.38 p.m.*