



OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

STATES OF DELIBERATION

OF THE

ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

HANSARD

Royal Court House, Guernsey, Wednesday, 20th May 2026

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Present:

Ms J. E. Roland, Deputy Bailiff and Presiding Officer

Law Officers

H. Pullum (H.M. Comptroller)

People's Deputies

C. P. A Blin	M. P. Leadbeater
Y. Burford	R. Le Brun
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. Curgenvén	A. J. Niles
H. L. de Sausmarez	G. A. Oswald
D. F. Dorrity	J. M. Ozanne OBE
S. J. Falla	C. N. K. Parkinson
A. Gabriel	S. R. Rochester
J. A. B. Gollop	T. M. Rylatt
S. T. Hansmann Rouxel	A. S. Sloan
M. A. J. Helyar	G. A. St Pier
R. M. Humphreys	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

The Clerk to the States of Deliberation

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

Absent at the Evocation

Deputy L. T. Goy (*relevé à 9h 33*) ; Alderney Representative E. Hill (*relevé à 10h 03*) ;
Alderney Representative E. A. J. Snowdon (*relevé à 10h 03*)

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States of Deliberation

*The States met at 9.30 a.m. in the presence of
His Excellency Lt Gen Richard Cripwell
Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Bailiwick of Guernsey*

[THE DEPUTY BAILIFF *in the Chair*]

PRAYERS

The States' Greffier

EVOCAATION

CONVOCAATION

The States' Greffier: Billet d'État VII and Billet d'État VIII of 2026. 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 Wednesday, 29th May, 2026 at 9.30 a.m. to consider the items listed in this Billet d'État, which have been submitted for debate.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Goy, do you wish to be relevéd?

Deputy Goy: Yes.

Procedural – Order of business

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Hansmann Rouxel.

Deputy Hansmann Rouxel: Thank you, madam.

I would like to propose a motion under Rule 9(1) that Item 1 from Billet VIII, which is the Election of a Member of the Policy & Resources Committee be moved to now.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

Members, you have heard the motion. I understand Deputy Hansmann Rouxel had given you forewarning that she was going to put this motion to the Chamber. I am going to put it *aux voix*. Those who support the motion to move the Election of the Member of Policy & Resources Committee to now, before the Statements, please say pour; those against.

A Member: A request for a recorded vote, please.

The Deputy Bailiff: States' Greffier, there was a request for the recorded vote. Can everybody make sure that they are now signed into the SEV system. I think all Members have now signed in,

save for the Alderney Representatives who unfortunately I understand are delayed by a bit of fog. States' Greffier, would you open the voting on the motion to reorder the business, please?

30

There was a recorded vote.

Carried – Pour 25, Contre 11 Ne vote pas 2, Did not vote 0, Absent 2

Pour	Contre	Ne vote pas	Did not vote	Absent
Blin, Chris	Camp, Haley	Cameron, Andy	None	Hill, Edward
Burford, Yvonne	Collins, Garry	St Pier, Gavin		Snowdon, Alexander
Bury, Tina	Dorrity, David			
Curgenven, Rob	Gabriel, Adrian			
de Sausmarez, Lindsay	Helyar, Mark			
Falla, Steve	Inder, Neil			
Gollop, John	Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha			
Goy, David	Leadbeater, Marc			
Hansmann Rouxel, Sarah	Sloan, Andy			
Humphreys, Rhona	Van Katwyk, Lee			
Kay-Mouat, Bruno	Vermeulen, Simon			
Laine, Marc				
Le Brun, Ross				
Malik, Munazza				
Matthews, Aidan				
McKenna, Liam				
Montague, Paul				
Niles, Andrew				
Oswald, George				
Ozanne, Jayne				
Parkinson, Charles				
Rochester, Sally				
Rylatt, Tom				
Strachan, Jennifer				
Williams, Steve				

35

The Deputy Bailiff: In relation to the procedural motion to reorder the business, there voted pour 25, contre 11, and there were 2 abstentions. I therefore declare that the motion has passed.

Billet d'État VIII

ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

PRESIDING OFFICER

1. Election of a Member of the Policy & Resources Committee – Election commenced

Article 1.

The States are asked:

To elect a sitting Member of the States as a Member of the Policy & Resources Committee to complete the unexpired term of office, that is to 30th June 2029, of Deputy Gavin St Pier who has resigned from that office, in accordance with Rule 16 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees.

40

The Deputy Bailiff: We will therefore move straight to VII. States' Greffier, would you read the –

The States' Greffier: Yes. Billet d'État VIII, Article 1. Presiding Officer Proposition, Election of a Member of the Policy & Resources Committee.

45 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Members, we will, I hope, have refreshed our memories about how Rule 16(5) works, but I will start by asking Deputy de Sausmarez, as the President of the Policy & Resources Committee to propose the candidate on behalf of the Committee.

Deputy de Sausmarez: Thank you, madam.
50 The Committee would like to nominate Deputy Andy Niles.

The Deputy Bailiff: And who seconds that?

Deputy Falla: I do, ma'am.
55

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.
I now invite the Chamber to propose any candidates.
Deputy Dorrity.

60 **Deputy Dorrity:** I would like to propose Deputy Camp.

The Deputy Bailiff: And who seconds Deputy Camp?

Deputy Collins: Me, ma'am.
65

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.
Any other nominations?
Yes, Deputy Leadbeater.

70 **Deputy Leadbeater:** I would like to nominate Deputy St Pier.

The Deputy Bailiff: Who would wish to second Deputy St Pier's nomination?

Deputy Blin: I do, ma'am.
75

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.
Any other nominations? Thank you.
As Members will be aware there are a number of motions in relation to the proposed election.
So I will first turn to Deputy Helyar in relation to Motion to Vary 3.
80

[Motion to Vary 3](#)

To vary Rule 16(3) and Rule 16(5) of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation, for the purposes of the current meeting of the States only, to the extent necessary to permit the election of a Member of the Policy & Resources Committee to be carried out by recorded ballot provided that the record:

- 1. shall show the name of each Member voting and the candidate for whom said Member voted;*
- and*
- 2. shall be included in the Official Report of the States (Hansard).*

Deputy Helyar: Thank you, ma'am.

85 Before I start, I would just like to declare that if this motion is unsuccessful it is my intention not to take part in this election, as I would be unable to prove to the public that I did not secretly take part in its outcome, whatever that may be.

90 This motion asks the Assembly, for this election only, to set aside the usual secret ballot provisions within our Rules for choosing a member of the Policy & Resources Committee, which is our senior Committee at the centre of Government. In normal circumstances, there are laudable reasons in relation to independence and pressurised voting which support the desire for secret ballots. But that is not an absolute rule. It is balanced against the overriding principles of fairness, accountability and transparency, which apply generally to all areas of public life. This Assembly has itself conducted recorded voting for Committee memberships in the past. It is therefore not a fixed and inviolable position. It is mutable according to the circumstances.

95 To see why this matters, ma'am, Members might be compared to any other serious body or institution, like a senior regulatory authority, a school board or the board of a banking institution with thousands of investors, depositors or indeed parents. Imagine that one of these public institutions was appointing a new senior office holder and one of the candidates was under criminal investigation for potentially serious offences. No responsible authority would say, 'That is irrelevant, we must carry on as if nothing is happening and the candidate is innocent'. No, it would recognise there is real risk to the institution, to those who rely on it, and to confidence in its judgement if it was to make that appointment, however much they like the candidate, or indeed the candidate's suitability, experience or qualifications.

100 If that decision later turned out badly, the depositors, investors and parents would also ask who agreed to this and who exactly thought this was an appropriate risk to take with the reputation of this institution or the risk to my deposits or my children.

105 Imagine if the reply were, 'Well, even though we were given the option to change our process and vote in the open, the majority decided to do it in secret and we therefore cannot identify who did or did not support it'; the public would quite rightly be furious. This is not the basis on which to build trust in the States of Guernsey, which as we can see from both public opinion and our election turnout is already at a very low ebb.

110 That is exactly the position this Assembly creates if, in the exceptional circumstances we are in today, the majority of Members vote against this motion and seek to hide themselves behind a comfortable veil of secrecy. Several Members have said to me this motion is going to lose, as if that is something I am afraid of. My response has been that it cannot lose whatever the outcome of the vote, because it will have served its purpose. For those Members wishing to behave in secret, in this very serious set of reputational circumstances for our Bailiwick, this motion is a deliberate catch-22. Members will have to show their cards and vote down this motion in public in order to be able to then elect in secret.

120 Identifying those Members of this Assembly, like me, who believe in transparency and openness in such serious circumstances, even if there are only a handful of us, can never be categorised as a defeat. We will have done our duty by standing up for what is the right course of action and something which any sensible and serious organisation or institution would do in similar circumstances.

125 There is another element to this motion. Members know that in light of the ongoing criminal investigation, the Policy & Resources Committee has already reached the view that it was not appropriate for a Member in those circumstances to remain on that Committee. That is why the Member stepped down. If, with those set of circumstances still in play, this Assembly now votes to put such a candidate back on to P&R, that is not a neutral act. In substance, it is a vote against P&R's own judgement about what is appropriate for its membership and for our Bailiwick. Given that circumstances have not changed, whether P&R then asks that Member to resign again and we end up back here next month in a ridiculous Kafkaesque closed loop is anyone's guess.

130 Members are entitled, of course, to disagree with P&R. Many of us do, and quite frequently, in the open. But if Members decide today to override the senior Committee of Government on a

135 matter as serious as this, both P&R and the public are, in my view, simply entitled to know who has done so.

The real issue in this motion, and the election to which it relates, is not the personal character of any candidate, and it is not about prejudging the outcome of any process. That is irrelevant. The issue is whether, in the present circumstances, it is sound judgement to appoint in secret to the Policy & Resources Committee any candidate who might be under investigation in respect of potentially serious offences.

140 Ma'am, the reputation of Guernsey does not belong to Members of the States. It is held in trust on behalf of the public. It underpins confidence in Government, in our finance sector, in our institutions and in the wider economy. Businesses, investors, counterparties, regulators and the whole community rely on it being nurtured and protected by us.

145 If the Assembly decides to vote against this motion and proceed in secret, it is choosing to potentially expose that reputation to a serious and avoidable risk. Any Member who believes that is the right course should be willing to say so in public, to be accountable for their actions, and to accept the public consequences for their own reputation and for the judgement, or perhaps lack of it, which they have exercised here today.

150 A secret ballot would prevent such accountability. It would allow Members immediately prior to one of the most important debates this term, and potentially for generations, to take a major decision on behalf of the Island and never have to explain their part in it. It would also mean that those, like me, who refuse to take that risk would be unable to prove we did not take part and would be indistinguishable from those who did, which is unfair to us and more importantly to the electorate who appointed us and who pay our wages.

155 This motion does not abolish secret ballots. It draws a narrow one-off exception in a situation which is itself undeniably and without precedent and truly exceptional. In short, ma'am, if this Assembly is going to gamble with the Island's reputation, the people of Guernsey are entitled to know who amongst us placed that bet. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.)

160 I urge Members to vote for transparency and accountability to set a good public example, and step back from their allegiances and their otherwise sound principles around secrecy, to accept that these are exceptional and grave circumstances, consider what is best for this Island and wider Bailiwick and its citizens, and support this motion to hold this election subject to a recorded public vote.

165 Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Collins, do you second the motion?

Deputy Collins: I do, ma'am.

170 Unless there are any points of order, can I address the Assembly now?

The Deputy Bailiff: Yes, you may.

Deputy Collins: Thank you.

175 I will not echo the wise words from my colleague on this, but just to point out, in my first term in 2012 we did actually have open voting, and as I am sure you are well aware, ma'am, through my social media website, my 2,580 votes I cast in this Chamber are there for display, including everybody I voted to any position in any time, even though the Rules changed a couple of years into that term. I have no shame of that. When I spoke to Members, I supported them and I was open in doing so.

180 I will not repeat all of the valid arguments that have been made. I do feel this, unfortunately, we will lose. But all I am asking Members to think about is thinking about being open. If they are supporting a candidate, and I truly believe everybody here today have probably already made their mind up of whom they are choosing, and we are going to go through this election process. I do not think it may – I may be wrong – persuade people to vote one way or the other.

185

Realistically, if Members have already decided how they are going to vote, why not be supporting the person you are voting; make it nice and public? Whoever we send to P&R, make sure they know who is there supporting them in that really difficult job that they are going to have for the rest of this term.

190 That is all I really wanted to contribute, ma'am. But just to echo again, for Members to be open and there is this chance for them to do so.

Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you, Deputy Collins.

195 Deputy Hansmann Rouxel.

Deputy Hansmann Rouxel: Thank you, madam.

200 As the proposer of this amendment did point out, the motion is far reaching than perhaps it first appears because it does go to the heart of how elections within this Assembly have traditionally been operated.

205 The motion raises a genuine tension between transparency and accountability on the one hand and the ability of Members to vote freely and independently on the other. Most votes in this Assembly are public, and rightly so. Members should be accountable for their positions in policy, legislation and public expenditure. But elections have historically been treated differently. Rule 16(3) currently provides that:

In any election or appointment by the States, voting shall be carried out by secret ballot.

210 Elections within our system have long been treated differently from ordinary policy votes. Elections for Deputies are by secret ballot; Jurat elections by secret ballot. They reflect long-standing constitutional distinction between public policy decisions and elections to office. Secret ballots in parliamentary elections are intended to protect independent judgement, not, as may have been intimated, secrecy for its own sake.

215 The idea is that Members should be able to elect people to positions of leadership and influence according to their genuine judgement and conscience, rather than because of external pressure, factional expectation, personal loyalties or fear of political consequences.

Having sat in previous Assemblies and having witnessed at times the degree of pressure which senior Members could place upon other Members, I can understand why secret ballots developed as a safeguard against undue influence. Even in the consensus system, pressures and dynamics exist and secret ballots provide protection for Members to exercise independent judgement.

220 Other parliamentary jurisdictions continue to recognise that distinction. Westminster itself uses secret ballots for positions such as Speaker and the Select Committee Chairs, specifically to protect parliamentary independence. That approach also aligns with the broader constitutional principles reflected in the Commonwealth Latimer House principles, namely that parliamentarians should be able to carry out their functions and exercise judgement freely and without proper influence.

225 Madam, I also recognise entirely the counterargument made by Deputy Helyar. The flip side of secrecy is the perception of reduced transparency, and that is what we are looking at here. Some Members and some members of the public will feel strongly that if we are electing people to positions of significant public authority then the public should be entitled to know how we vote, and I think that is an absolutely illegitimate argument and I do not dismiss it. But the unintended consequences also need to be considered. Members may feel more exposed to pressure, lobbying or expectation once their vote is publicly attached to a candidate.

230 There is also a practical human consequence. If a candidate is successfully elected, they may have to sit on a Committee knowing which Members did or did not support them. In some circumstances that may not matter. In others, it could affect trust, working relationships, or the perception of cohesion within a Committee. Some of those dynamics already exist where a President nominates one Member and the Assembly elects another, as happened earlier in this term with

Deputy Vermeulen on Home Affairs. But a recorded ballot would make those dynamics even more explicit.

240 Reasonable Members may come to different conclusions on where the balance should sit. I have found this motion difficult because there are legitimate arguments on both sides, but ultimately for me it comes down to procedural fairness. Unlike previous changes in this area, which Deputy Collins alluded to, made at the beginning of the 2012 term, this amendment does not amend the Rules permanently. The motion seeks to alter the voting mechanism only for this particular election, and that is worthy of consideration in the context of this election and these circumstances.

245 It is still a significant constitutional change to make in the middle of a live election. If the Assembly wishes in future to move towards open balance for elections, that is entirely within its gift, but personally I think that is a broader constitutional conversation, which should take place separately from an individual election itself. Even as a one-off, as this motion seeks to do, I believe there must be caution in taking such a significant step.

250 Members, I do not stand to persuade you either way, but I do think this motion needs careful consideration beyond simply the language of openness and transparency because these are not the only values engaged here. For these reasons, Madam, I will not be supporting the motion.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.
255 Deputy Burford.

Deputy Burford: Thank you, madam.

260 Deputy Helyar makes some very understandable arguments for this, and I do note that this would only be for this election and I have been slightly torn, to be quite honest, over which way I vote because I feel incredibly strongly that the principle of secret ballots for elections should be kept in place. But I have also thought that there might be a third way where we do not fall into either of the categories that Deputy St Pier outlined for the future.

265 But I would like to start with just a little update on – or a refresher on – what actually happened in the 2012 Assembly, which has been tangentially referred to so far. At the very beginning of the 2012 term for the election of a Chief Minister a successful motion was laid to have the vote by *appel nominal*, rather than by secret ballot. Emboldened by the move, at the very next meeting to elect Department Ministers, as they were then called, a new Member – former Deputy Bebb – laid an amendment to make voting for all Ministers open, and former Deputy Lowe laid one to apply the same rules to Committee positions, essentially making all elections open. They were done by a way
270 of everyone had named pieces of paper on their table and, whenever an election took place, they would then write the name on a named piece of paper and it would be published afterwards.

The debate though to change it was limited, with less than a dozen of the 47 Members contributing. The main leader of the charge against the change was former Deputy Ogier, then with eight years' experience under his belt. He set out cogent arguments as to why this was a very bad
275 idea. He cited a recollection by former Deputy Mary Lowe, who said that in the previous term, when she had stood for Minister of a Department, 28 people pledged their vote to her, but in the event only 15 actually carried through on that promise. Asking people afterwards, all 28 assured her that they had written her name on the ballot slip. (*Laughter*)

280 Whilst former Deputy Lowe felt this was an argument for open ballots, I have to concur with former Deputy Ogier that it was quite the opposite. The former, and now late, Deputy Quin, a man of few words in the Assembly, rose to say this:

I was always told that there are two places you can be sure of confidentiality – one is the confession box and the other is the ballot box.

285 Although he did continue to say that he has never been in a confessional as he would have had to be there for an awfully long time.

But fast forward three years and an older and wiser Deputy Bebb's *mea culpa* is recorded in *Hansard* when the previous decision is reversed. He stated:

... as Members will know, this paper actually seeks to bring back secret ballots and Members will probably remember that I was the one who proposed having open ballots for Ministers, and I am willing to stand here and say that I think I made a mistake, and therefore I would urge Members to revert to the fact of not having fear nor favour.

I would sincerely have hoped that things were different but I think that the realistic and pragmatic experience of this term has shown that my aspirations were not met ... and therefore I feel that the best way of serving the Assembly is to revert to a secret ballot.

290 I understand this motion to vary is only applicable to this election on this day, but irrespective it sets a precedent. What other sets of special circumstances will arise in the future that someone feels merits another exception and that time it will be easier because it has precedent?

295 If this ballot is made open it is highly likely that the vote tallies for individual candidates will be different to if it is a secret ballot. Some Members will feel under pressure, some like the 13 who pledged their vote for former Deputy Lowe will feel they have to do something different to their intention, and it may not even involve Deputy St Pier, who we are told is the catalyst. So this motion risks affecting other candidates' tallies too.

300 Perhaps Deputy Helyar is concerned at how the members of P&R in particular will vote; I do not know. Do we have some secret plot to get Deputy St Pier back? That would seem pretty perverse, given that not only did he resign but that we had already resolved to ask him to do so. However, to go some way to easing Deputy Helyar's concerns, I am quite content to voluntarily give up my right to confidentiality in this particular election and show my voting slip to my good colleague here, Deputy Dorrity, before I put it in the hat, and he will be able to confirm that I am voting for the Committee's nomination, Deputy Niles. As a member of the nominating Committee, it would be quite wrong not to do so, and I consider he is the best candidate to add to P&R.

305 I would urge Members to please reject this motion, to allow Members to vote without fear or favour, and to only disclose their ballot if they wish to do so, and to learn the lessons of the 2012 Assembly.

Thank you.

310

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Ozanne.

Deputy Ozanne: Thank you, ma'am.

315 I too urge the Assembly to reject this motion, and I will not echo the strong points made by Deputy Burford or Deputy Hansmann Rouxel; I just want to add a couple of extra points.

320 Deputy Helyar understandably focused on one particular Member in this election, and that is why I believe Deputy Helyar has proposed this motion, because he believes there are exceptional circumstances. But there are actually three people in this election, and two of those are not impacted by how Deputy Helyar has brought this forward. So for the reasons of working relationships in the future, I do think all the reasons that Deputy Burford has brought forward still stand.

325 Many of us Deputies have received quite a few emails over the last three, four days from a significant minority, which I have to be honest seem to be undermining one particular Member in this election. These factions predate any criminal charges. In fact, they predate this term. They go back many years. The reason I have stood to speak is I want to name the fact that there are factions at work in this Assembly, and I do not accept, I am afraid, in as good faith as others, that this motion does not come without those factional allegiances at work.

Deputy Helyar: Point of order.

330

The Deputy Bailiff: Yes, Deputy Helyar, what is your point of order?

Deputy Helyar: Deputy Ozanne is insinuating that this motion is brought in bad faith. I did not mention the name of any candidates in this election, and it has certainly not been done on that basis and it should be withdrawn.

335

A Member: Hear, hear.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Ozanne.

Deputy Ozanne: I accept that Deputy Helyar did not mention a name, but he did talk about criminal charges against one particular Member in this election.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Ozanne, the point of order is an allegation of bad faith. I do think you are on the cusp of implying that it has been done for ulterior motives. So I do think it appropriate that if that was your motive that you acknowledge it and withdraw the comment.

345

Deputy Ozanne: I do withdraw that. Sorry, ma'am, I misunderstood the point.

But I am making, I think, a factual comment that there have been parties in the past as well as factions in this Chamber. I do not mean to insinuate bad faith, but I am trying to pull out some facts that there have been party lines in the past.

350

I would urge people to trust this Assembly and our ability to vote by our conscience. I am very impressed by what Deputy Burford has just said in terms of showing her vote to her colleagues. I am sure other current P&R members may wish to do the same.

But I, for one, believe that the importance of our procedures, which actually look at how we vote for Jurats, the highest legal places in our Island, I think needs to be maintained and to have this one-off change to me is not warranted at this time.

355

Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

Before I turn to you, Deputy Inder, Alderney Representatives Hill and Snowdon, do you wish to be relevéd?

360

Alderney Representative Hill: Yes, please.

Alderney Representative Snowdon: Yes, please.

365

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

Yes, Deputy Inder.

Deputy Inder: I will keep it relatively short, ma'am.

370

I concur with everything that Deputy Helyar has said and, just for the record, we have not spoken about it, I am not on a WhatsApp group with him and I am not in his party. In fact, even when I do text him, he rarely responds anyway. *(Laughter)* So I think that is relatively fair.

Let us not pretend that this is a secret election. We already know how 13 are going to vote. I am assuming Deputy Niles is not stupid enough not to vote for himself. Having said that, I will give an example when that may have happened once. Deputy de Sausmarez will be voting for Deputy Niles. Deputy Falla will be voting for Deputy Niles. Deputy Camp is going to vote for herself. Deputy Collins will vote for her. Deputy Dorrity will vote for her. Deputy St Pier will vote for himself and Deputy Leadbeater and Deputy Blin will vote for Deputy St Pier. Deputy Burford and Deputy Parkinson are on P&R. P&R are supporting that. I am assuming Deputy St Pier will not be voting for Deputy Niles. So there is another two, and of course we have got Rylatt and Humphreys who are party members, so that is 13 people.

375

380

385 **The Deputy Bailiff:** I would be grateful, Deputy Inder, if you addressed them in an appropriate way rather than just by their surnames; we are not in public school.

Deputy Inder: Sorry, there are so many Marks in this, I call everyone by their last name.

390 So Deputies Rylatt and Humphreys are members of the – and I never know what it is called, is it Future Guernsey, Forward Guernsey? I will assume they have been whipped and will be supporting Deputy St Pier. So there are 13 people who already we know how they are going to vote.

So what is wrong with the public knowing how the rest of us are going to vote? This is not a secret ballot by any stretch of the imagination.

395 Deputy Burford made reference to what people have said, how are they going to vote in certain ways in the past and how they did not. I remember myself in 2016 I lost an election, and both Deputy Collins, I think it was, and Deputy Hansmann Rouxel came above me. The week after, the amount of people that came up to me and told me that they had voted me I would have topped the poll. I, in fact, lost the seat.

400 I will give another example where the suspicion quite clearly exists. I think it was about three years ago, I believe it was Deputy Le Tissier, he had himself put forward for a position – it might have been the DPA – and I think it was against Deputy Burford. There were three people in that running. Inasmuch as you would assume that Deputy Le Tissier voted for himself, you would assume the proposer and seconder voted for himself, he actually got two votes under a secret ballot. So one of the three did not vote for him; did not vote for him.

405 Finally, ma'am, I am going to refer again to this party, Future Guernsey – this is a reference that Deputy Ozanne made – of which I am not in, I am not on a WhatsApp group. I had to prove it once to former Deputy Dyke, because he thought we were on this nefarious group. I had to show him my phone; I had two. One was called Poppy Cannot Drive, which is my daughter because she could not, and that was a family one. The other one was Boy's Birthday Bash. There was no activity on that tour. My advice to most people is do not judge everyone by their own low benchmarks. We do not all act like they may act.

410 I am not on any WhatsApp group. Most of us generally come to conclusions through independence. We are not led. We do not have a book to work from. We are not in a party. The last thing I will say to Deputy Humphreys and Deputy Rylatt, I will remind them of something that they said.

415 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Is that through me, Deputy Inder?

Deputy Inder: Through you, ma'am.

420 They advocate for transparency and openness. That is in their manifesto. They say they advocate for a clear measure of Deputies' performance. Well, why today, members of Forward Guernsey, would you not vote for openness and transparency today? What has changed in a year?

Thank you.

425 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Sloan.

Deputy Sloan: Thank you, madam.

430 Madam, I am torn too, as Deputy Burford, although I will not be showing anybody my voting slip. There is the point of principle; the point of principle that our elections are by secret ballot, which was the reason why I could not find myself to support Deputy Helyar in seconding his amendment – or his Proposition I should say.

435 But there is a second principle, as Deputy Leadbeater will be reassured ChatGPT will tell you, that it is accountability and transparency, which we have heard. The reason being for that is that in elections such as this we are not voting for ourselves; we are actually agents, we are fiduciaries here on behalf of the public. So our vote is cast on their behalf. That is the point of principle that is the foundation of the rationale for a non-secret ballot.

440 But I think this debate, madam, is more of a proxy for a different topic here. I think the issue here by the proposer is to ensure there is a record of those who voted for a certain candidate. Because the underlying issue is that this election to be shortly, it is not about who is the best candidate to be on P&R, because I do believe that none of the other candidates come close to Deputy St-Pier's mix of skills and experience.

But, on that basis, if that was the basis of the vote, he has my vote; if that was the basis of the election. But I think the concerns are whether the election to be brings the Assembly into potential disrepute; a point I have made many times in public and in private.

445 Personally, I did not think the issue was a resigning issue. I think that P&R should have handled it better. There should have been a way for a suspension to have occurred, as there was last year. That was my personal view, and I have said it before and I have said it again. But what I do not believe should be occurring is a fresh mandate to be sought while present circumstances are going on. I think that is the point that brings us all into disrepute, potentially by this vote, and hence this Proposition.

450 However, even so is the point of principle, I cannot find myself voting in favour of a secret ballot for an election. I just do believe that it is a Rubicon that cannot be crossed. So I shall be voting against the motion, madam.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.
455 Deputy Leadbeater.

Deputy Leadbeater: Thank you, Madam Deputy Bailiff.

460 Well, we have had a revelation today. We have learned that Deputy Inder has got mystical powers (**Deputy Inder:** Have I?), and he knows exactly how people are thinking. He could be that mystical seahorse that I see appearing on Facebook quite regularly; I am not quite sure.

I just like to ask Deputy Helyar – it does not bother me, everybody knows which way I am going to vote. I am proposing Deputy St Pier, so I am not going to propose him and vote in a different way, so it does not bother me whatsoever. But I would just like to ask Deputy Helyar –

465 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Through me.

Deputy Leadbeater: Through you, madam, (*Laughter*) why just the P&R election and why not the ESS? If we are going to be doing this and we are going to be open and transparent and everybody is going to see exactly the way we cast our votes in the Assembly, why is it just specifically to this one election and not to the other elections? I would just like him to qualify that when he sums up.

Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.
475 Deputy Rylatt.

Deputy Rylatt: Thank you, madam.

480 After Inder – sorry, Deputy Inder's performance (*Laughter*), I am going to endeavour to speculate how the other half of the Assembly might now vote. No, I am not going to waste five minutes doing that.

I understand the political appeal of this motion. In the circumstances, it is easy to present it as a simple question of transparency in the face of a contentious election. But that, I believe, is to oversimplify the situation. This debate, in reality, is a question of whether this Assembly should abandon a well-established and important parliamentary standard at precisely the moment when it matters most.

485 Madam, I want to firstly address the argument of scrutiny and accountability that was made in the proposer's speech. The explanatory note states:

The purpose of the motion is therefore to ensure that, if any Member is prepared to support such a candidature, that support is given openly and is capable of public scrutiny and accountability.

490 Madam, like Deputy Leadbeater, I have already done that. Deputy Humphreys and I have made our position very clear through a statement made earlier this month, and I am comfortable with being held account to that.

Indeed, suspiciously soon after we published that statement on social media, the President of the Scrutiny Management Committee, going above and beyond in his responsibilities, sent me some rather blunt scrutiny of his own via WhatsApp. (*Laughter*) But unfortunately for Deputy Sloan, in doing so I fear he may have outed himself as a particularly keen observer of the Forward Guernsey Facebook page. (*Laughter*)

But I mention that for a very serious reason. I am not asking for political cover for myself. I have stated my position, I have already been challenged on it, and I will defend it if asked to do so. So my opposition to this motion is not about avoiding scrutiny, but rather whether this Assembly should set aside an important parliamentary safeguard for this one election.

Deputy Helyar is not proposing that we move away from secret ballots as a general rule, as has been well established. He is asking us to set the Rule aside in this one specific circumstance. The explanatory note states that allowing Members to vote for, 'such a candidature' by secret ballot would be 'contrary to the public interest'. It says that Members may otherwise be able to support the candidate, 'under the cover of secrecy'.

I have no doubt that Deputy Helyar brought this motion in good faith. But that wording, in my view, quite clearly attaches a political weight to one side of the vote before it has even taken place, which reveals to me that this motion is less about achieving accountability through the Rules, but about putting a finger on the political scale.

Madam, that is where I am really struggling with this. Because if the motion seeking to suspend the secret ballot is itself drafted in a way which implies that one possible vote would be contrary to the public interest, then that is exactly the kind of pressure that a secret ballot is designed to protect against. It is there to protect Members' ability to make judgements independently, free from pressure or intimidation, allowing Members to vote with their conscience.

The value of a secret ballot is not really tested when the choice is easy or uncontroversial. It is tested precisely at the moment when the decision is difficult, when Members may feel under pressure from inside or outside this Assembly. In much the same way, the right freedom of speech is not most important when everyone agrees with what is being said. It matters most when the view expressed is unpopular or inconvenient. So I find it difficult to accept the argument that we should keep the principle of a secret ballot in ordinary circumstances and then disapply it at the very moment when its purpose is most engaged. With respect to Deputy Helyar, that to me seems to be a nonsensical treatment of the Rules. If we only maintain the secret ballot when the issue is uncontroversial, then we are not really in favour of the principle at all.

Now I have difficulty with closing this speech, madam, because about half of it was taken up by Deputy Burford. She beat me to the punch on that one. But she had some good advice to Members coming in earlier this term. She said, 'Do not think the political world started with your entry into it'. So, like her, I went back through *Hansard*. I was interested to see former Deputy Bebb's experience in bringing an amendment to have a secret ballot for Ministers and then, with three years' experience, supporting the reintroduction of secret ballots.

So in light of that experience and what Deputy Burford has very articulately explained to us, I would encourage Members not to needlessly retread old ground, not to repeat the mistakes of over a decade ago, to recognise the self-defeating nature of this motion and to reject it.

Thank you, madam.

535

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.
Deputy Goy.

Deputy Goy: Thank you very much, ma'am.

540 First of all, I would like to say that I support transparency consistently and always. I will be voting for transparency, but not because I think this is an exceptional circumstance; it is not. Every position, every single election of a Member to go on a senior position such as P&R or President of any Committee is significant and should have that level of transparency. This is called consistency.

545 I want the people to know that the reason I am voting for transparency today and for this voting to be made public is not because of this exceptional circumstance. It is not. Because at the end of the day, the result is the same. Whether exceptional circumstance or not, a person goes into a very senior position and the public deserves the right to know how all other Members voted and hold them to account as well. This will also help take away factionalism because then you have to explain your position to the public rather than just have a secret vote where there is an agenda to all of this.

550 In saying so, I would like to say let us go further. In the future, let all ballots be not secret. Let the public know how we vote.

Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

555 Deputy Vermeulen.

Deputy Vermeulen: Thank you, ma'am.

560 Well, what a lovely amendment this is. I was really surprised at just how strong that opening speech was from Deputy Helyar. That is one of the best speeches I have heard in this Assembly for a (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) long time.

I am a man of principle, believe it or not, and openness, transparency, accountability, reputation, all those things are really important to me, and it pains me when I see P&R making mistakes. We have made plenty of mistakes with the selection and how things have unfolded, and the last thing I want to see is another mistake repeated here today with the wrong people being elected, things going wrong, and a vote of no confidence coming in P&R. Because that destabilises the Island (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) and that is not what this Assembly deserved.

570 This is the States of Guernsey who are in here. This is not some backroom in a pub somewhere; it is not some private club. We are representing the Islanders and the Islanders' best interests. So I will be supporting this amendment. I like it so much, ma'am, if I could, I would vote for it twice. (*Laughter*)

The Deputy Bailiff: Best not.

575 **Deputy Vermeulen:** But there might be a bit of a problem with that. So I am going to support this and I would urge Members to support this amendment too. Grab hold of it whilst it is there because we do not want to make any more mistakes on P&R.

Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

580 Deputy Bury.

Deputy Bury: Thank you, ma'am.

585 I too have been very torn over this motion, and I have listened very carefully in debate. I think there have been strong arguments made on both sides, and I have not really been helped because of that unfortunately.

The points that have jumped out at me quite clearly, I think taking Deputy Rylatt's point that he made in words, it is not as simple as openness and transparency. I think that has been made by many others, and that is jumping out at me. The things I am concerned about under that umbrella

590 for myself is less about justification to the public and more about impact on working relationships with those who I do not vote for and how those might continue.

Something I do not think has been touched on too much, there have been conversations around pressure and vulnerability of some Members. For those that were not here last term there were some Members in particular who were quite vulnerable to quite excessive pressure, I would say, in some circumstances. Some of those are not in the Assembly with us this term; some still are. That is a concern for other people. I do not count myself in that category and I do not think many do, but that is a concern for other people, and I do not want people to suffer that in this circumstance.

600 Just to Deputy Inder's crystal ball, knowing how people will vote. As Deputy Leadbeater said, just because someone proposes or seconds you in a secret ballot, it does not mean they vote for you. Hopefully everyone is playing with the straight bat and I am not inferring that that is what Deputy Leadbeater is doing today, just to be very clear, but Deputy Inder's crystal ball might need a bit of a polish there because that is not how it always works. You do assume though that nominees or candidates will probably vote for themselves.

605 I still remain torn, and I think we are nearing the end of debate so I am going to have to decide quite soon. I do think it has been a useful debate. I think for going forwards, to Deputy Goy's point and others, perhaps consideration more in the round and with more time to consider of secret ballots may be given. If we are to do so, to change the Rules, we should do so consistently rather than picking out one circumstance slightly on the hoof. Even though we did have pre-warning, it is not the same as full consideration of a policy letter, six weeks to consider, etc.

610 I will listen carefully to the summing up. The opening was very strong but as have many of the speeches been. Yes, those are my points on record.

Thank you, ma'am.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Parkinson.

615 **Deputy Parkinson:** Thank you, ma'am.

I do not have much to add to the debate but I rise to make a few comments. Firstly, in relation to a remark made by Deputy Sloan; we do not have a mechanism for suspension of members of Committees, and probably that is an issue that SACC should look into, because I think we have discovered – I give way to Deputy Sloan.

620 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Yes, Deputy Sloan.

Deputy Sloan: My point was, madam, that in last early summer there was a mechanism found for an effective suspension that was found for Deputy Le Tocq.

625 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Parkinson.

630 **Deputy Parkinson:** Well, I was about to come on to that because, no, he was not suspended. As a matter of fact, what happened was Deputy Le Tocq was signed off sick. Now, P&R had made it clear to him that we did not think he could continue in his role, but the next thing we knew is we basically got handed a sick note and he went off to France. So he was not technically suspended, and I wish there had been a mechanism by which he could have been suspended. I think it is a gap in our Rules. But anyway it was not available then, and it is not available now.

635 To Deputy Burford's comment, I agree with her that I suspect a lot of the motive behind this amendment is a suspicion that members of P&R are going to secretly vote for Deputy St. Pier in the forthcoming election. That is not, as far as I am aware, the case for any of us. It is certainly not the case for me. I will be voting for P&R's nominated candidate, and I am, like Deputy Burford, perfectly willing to show my voting slip to anyone in this neighbourhood who wants to see it before I put it in the envelope. There is no secret I will be voting for Deputy Niles.

640 I thought Deputy Rylatt made an excellent speech, and I agree that the principle of the secret ballot is fundamental to our democracy. The public vote for us in secret. Nobody in this Chamber, I hope, would be suggesting that they should have to make their votes public. It is a fundamental principle of our democracy that in elections for positions people vote in secret. I think that is not to be overturned lightly.

645 Having said that, if the Assembly decides that the votes in this election should be public, I am not going to burst into tears or resign or anything like that. I have told you the way I am going to vote, so it is hardly as though I am trying to protect secrecy for myself. But I do believe that it is in the general interest that people should be able, in the privacy of the ballot box as it were, to cast their votes as they see fit.

650 Obviously a lot of games do go on, and examples have been cited to us of people who pledge their support to one candidate or another and are plainly not carried through when it came to the vote. We can have various views about how reprehensible that is or not, but the reality is it serves our democracy quite well and, to be honest, candidates in past elections who had pledges of 25 votes or whatever it was and only got 11, there was probably a good reason for that. I do not think democracy was ill-served by that process, even if the feelings of the candidate were bruised.

655 As I say, on balance, I am not going to support this amendment. I do not think it is a matter that I am going to get terribly upset about if people vote the other way. But I think the principle of secret ballots in our democracy is one worth preserving.

660 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Van Katwyk.

Deputy Van Katwyk: Thank you, ma'am.

Are we not all equals in this Chamber? I remember when I was up for election on the Committee for Economic Development and Development & Planning Authority, I had to be voted in openly. There has been mention a few times during this debate about fears of working relationships. Let me tell you, if any of you vote against me, any time, I will work with you tomorrow.

670 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Van Katwyk, I am being quite scrupulous today. Can you make sure you address your comments through me?

Deputy Van Katwyk: Sorry, ma'am.

Ma'am, if anybody in this Chamber wants to vote against me, I will work with them tomorrow. If anybody wants to stand up and speak vehemently against me, I will work with you tomorrow. If you want to go into *The Guernsey Press* and speak against me, I will work with Deputies tomorrow, ma'am. So I will be voting for this motion of transparency today, tomorrow and every day.

Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

Deputy de Sausmarez.

680

Deputy de Sausmarez: Thank you, madam.

Deputy Bury mentioned – well there has been much talk actually of crystal balls, all I can say is that I think mine needs to go back to the manufacturer.

685 **Deputy Inder:** Point of order. With the greatest respect, this crystal ball thing, if she does not mind, is being misconstrued.

The Deputy Bailiff: What is your point of order?

690 **Deputy Inder:** Continual – I do not really know, to be honest. *(Laughter)*

The Deputy Bailiff: Well conceded, Deputy Inder.
Deputy de Sausmarez.

695 **Deputy de Sausmarez:** Moving on. I too find myself on the horns of a dilemma, not for my own position, as other Members have said. For me, like Deputy Leadbeater, it is very straightforward. I am nominating a candidate, I will be voting for that candidate. I am very happy to show everyone, and luckily Deputy Helyar is within sight if he needs that reassurance. So I would be more than happy to give him that assurance.

700 Similarly, I would encourage him to reconsider his position, should his amendment not carry, to not vote, because I think he made some important points about the importance of this election, and I would hate to see anyone not participate in such an important vote simply for fear that they would not be able to give the public any assurance. If it helps I will show him his, if he shows mine. I will be more than happy to vouch for his vote. But I would encourage him to reconsider because
705 of the very points that he very ably made in fact.

I think many of the arguments have been made very well and very eloquently. I do just want to make a couple of comments on the general principle versus a specific position. I, for one, am more than happy to declare my voting intention and to provide any assurances around that, but I do not think it is reasonable for me to force that upon others who might not be comfortable. This goes to
710 the general principle. Deputy Goy talked about his support for open ballots in elections generally, and for me secret ballots in elections, as distinct from open voting on issues, is a fundamental tenet of democracy. It is really important.

The reason why is because open ballots are a favoured tool of autocrats. It does allow for some quite worrying parliamentary behaviour, I suppose. Others have made the point about what would happen if the electorate generally, during a general or a by-election, had to disclose their votes. We
715 all know the kind of pressure that might be applied.

But really, open ballots for elections allows people to be monitored and coerced and pressured in ways that really erodes the core values of that democratic system. So I would guard against the idea of making elections by open ballot a permanent one.

720 I do not think I can oppose this amendment because, as I say, I am more than happy to share my own vote. I am uncomfortable about imposing that requirement on anyone else, so I may well abstain from this. But I would hate to see a general move towards people's support for others in election or lack of support being used as a method of surveillance and control and pressure. I do think that is quite corrosive and should be guarded against.

725 However, I appreciate the sincere comments made around these particular circumstances by the people bringing the amendment. If I do not oppose this now, which I will not, I would just like to put on record that I would not be supportive of a more permanent move towards open ballots, because I think history has shown where that leads, and it is not necessarily very helpful.

Thank you.

730

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Falla.

Deputy Falla: Thank you, ma'am.

735 I rise for completeness as the remaining member of P&R yet to speak. We have heard some really good speeches this morning on this tricky decision, and I wish to make it known where I stand.

As much as I regret the circumstances in which we find ourselves, and I think we all do, Deputy Niles is P&R's unanimously preferred candidate for the election this morning. Therefore I will not be supporting the motion. I am, like other colleagues, quite happy to show anybody who wishes to see it my voting slip, and I will be voting for our preferred nominated candidate,
740 Deputy Niles.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.
Deputy Le Brun.

745 **Deputy Le Burn:** I am new here so this is going to sound a bit clumsy. But before I came in here
this morning I thought I would vote for the Proposition, but the reasons I heard from
Deputy Hansmann Rouxel and Deputy Burford explained that if we really believe that there are
people in here that can be influenced by having to vote publicly and we are taking away their good
choice and good reasoning, which is why they were voted in in the first place, then that is a reason
750 not to vote for this Proposition.

I will say now that I am going to support P&R's choice and I will vote against this Proposition.
I think we should have secret ballots and keep doing what we were doing, and I would happily show
anyone my vote as well.

755 Deputy Parkinson made a good point about public votes. Deputy Inder's WhatsApp group, I am
sure he would not like people seeing what he is saying in there. There are lots of good reasons that
we should not have the **(A Member:** Hear, hear.) Proposition.

That is it, thank you. *(Applause)*

760 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you.
Deputy McKenna.

Deputy McKenna: Thank you, Madam Bailiff.

765 I am sure, on behalf of all the Deputies, we wish Deputy Le Brun all the very best in his political
career in the next three years. **(A Member:** Hear, hear.) Well done on that speech this morning,
getting it out of the way. I may not have agreed with it, but there you go. *(Laughter)* I still applaud
it.

Madam Bailiff, the problem I have –

770 **The Deputy Bailiff:** I am sorry, Deputy McKenna, I am only the Deputy Bailiff, so I need to be
humble.

Deputy McKenna: Only a matter of time. *(Laughter)* I am just warming up, just get used to it.

775 Deputy Helyar was calling for openness and transparency, and then I heard the other side of the
argument about the secret ballot. I think the secret ballot, okay, I am heading towards a secret ballot
and all of a sudden everybody starts declaring who they are voting for. So actually I am one of the
very few then to say which way I am going to vote because people are declaring. So really it goes
back to Deputy Helyar's one-off in openness and transparency that if we vote for it then the public
do get to see where we stand on the issue.

780 Fear was mentioned. I have got no fear. It is a four-letter word; false evidence appearing real.
I will put my name down against who I want to vote for. I have actually told the person who I am
going to vote for. So it is, Deputy Madam Bailiff, the fact that people are declaring that we should
have a secret ballot, 'But by the way this is who I am voting for' and you go, 'Oh, come on'. I mean,
come on. You cannot do that. Let us put it on the electronic vote, let us see where people stand. **(A**
Member: Hear, hear.) Let us see where people are. **(Several Members:** Hear, hear.)

785 Is this a give way or a point of order or a point of correction, you can have any three?

The Deputy Bailiff: Are you giving way? Ask him to give way. She is asking you to give way,
Deputy McKenna.

790 **Deputy McKenna:** No, I am not giving way. I am not giving way.

Because you know why, it is as simple as that. It is my belief that it is as simple as that. If you
want the public to know who you are, put your name down. So I will be backing Deputy Helyar.

A Member: Hear, hear.

795

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Camp.

800 **Deputy Camp:** I was not necessarily intending to speak but I think, as a candidate, I want to put out there I have no issue of knowing who votes me or who does not. We will all be friends and colleagues at the end of this. I do not know what the big furore is about public voting.
Thank you.

805 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you, Deputy Camp.
Deputy Blin.

Deputy Blin: Thank you, ma'am.
I was not planning to speak either, but actually it is regarding the fact that we are conflating two things. We are saying if we are honest and we are open and everyone has already declared who they are going to be voting for so far as they speak every time, that is not the point. The point is the principle of the election process of the secret ballot. We have always had that. If we enter into this very – not speculative, but grey area of suddenly one exempting for this situation and choosing in this case we are going to be transparent, that will set a precedent for others. Let us just respect the system we have.

810 To be fair, I have never seen the situation before where P&R, one by one, have stood up and actually stated and asked to share with their colleague to show them the vote. Therefore, we have got what we feared what this is about. As far as the general public looking at us and saying, 'I want to know the transparency', here we are talking just about this particular change, this amendment. But the reality is we are going to come to an election to vote for a new member of P&R.

820 As was speculated or stated by Deputy Inder, he did a 13 calculation on who is standing. I am seconding Deputy St-Pier, so it is an accurate statement. But I, like anybody else, like Deputy Leadbeater, could change one's mind, etc. I am known to have changed my mind. I have heard amazing speeches and true comments etc., but please for now why can we not maintain the system?

825 Like Deputy Goy has raised, 'I believe in total transparency'. Well so do I. But if we do that we have to go through the whole process and look at the impact of every step we take before we make a change. So I would urge all Members here not to support this and then let us get on with the rest of the electoral vote.

Thank you.

830 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gabriel.

Deputy Gabriel: Thank you, ma'am.
I will be brief. I will support this motion because I do believe that in this it is an exceptional circumstance. We are in uncharted territory and we need to show transparency to our public who put us here about what and how we are going to vote for this in exceptional circumstances for this senior position.

840 Some Members have also mentioned around what Rules or what were available to them on regards to suspension of a Member and that there was no tool available to them. I would like your view, madam, on our Code of Conduct Green Book part 5 because I believe that does provide for some amount of suspension. But happy to accept your ruling on that as well.

Also, if either yourself or even Deputy Hansmann Rouxel would mind clarifying how the voting process would work if this was an open ballot and whether the SEV system could accommodate that. I would appreciate some advice and ruling on that as well.

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

In relation to the suspension point, I will defer to His Majesty's Comptroller in relation to advice on that. In relation to how this would work, it is not an SEV vote, because after consideration with

the States' Greffier, it is not possible to simultaneously have everybody vote on different Propositions at the same time. That is why the current Proposition is on the basis of you writing the name on a piece of paper and putting it in, and it will be counted. But I am aware that there is another Proposition being mooted, should this motion be passed.

Can I just ask, Madam Comptroller, do you have a view on the suspension issue?

The Comptroller: Madam, I am not aware of any power to suspend. I would not mind a bit more time to get back to Deputy Gabriel in due course to see if there is anything that I have missed, but as matters stand I am not aware there is any suspension power.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you, that was my understanding too. Thank you very much. Who else wishes to speak in debate? In that case, I will ask Deputy Helyar to respond.

Deputy Helyar: Thank you, madam.

I would just like to place on record, before we start, we are all in a situation here which we would rather we were not in. I would rather that circumstances had not happened, I would rather Deputy St Pier was able to continue in his role. I fully supported him during it, he has been doing an excellent job. It must be causing extreme difficulty and stress for his family, and I just wish we were not in this situation, but we are.

In bringing this motion, I have brought it completely without any personal issue in relation to that, and it is quite regrettable that one Member sought to politicise that by implying that it was brought for personal reasons.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Helyar, it was withdrawn.

Deputy Helyar: It was withdrawn and I am very glad about that, thank you, madam.

Deputy Leadbeater asked a question, why not ESS? Well ESS is not in the same set of circumstances. I am a big fan of secret ballots, they are fantastic, for all the reasons that everybody has espoused that is absolutely the right thing to do. There has been a lot of discussion – people may have missed the point of my speech – this is not just about transparency, transparency is the process by which we demonstrate to each other and to the public that we are capable in our position of extreme responsibility, exercising sound judgement.

This is about judgement, it is not about just transparency; we have to exercise judgement in the best interests of the Bailiwick and its reputation. I gave examples of a banking institution or a regulatory authority or the governorship of a school, none of those organisations – serious organisations – would take the reputational risk of appointing or voting to appoint a person in the circumstances of the Member who has unfortunately had to step down from P&R.

That is irrefutable, and nobody has given any evidence whatsoever that that would be otherwise. In fact, as Deputies, we would have a great deal of concern if our regulatory authorities started to appoint people in those circumstances to positions of senior authority; we would have a great deal of difficulty with it. We should be seen to walk the walk and that is why I am urging Members, in the circumstances, to support the motion.

I would just say I am aware that P&R, I think Deputy de Sausmarez is going to table another motion if this one is successful, which would allow for this open vote to be by simultaneous electronic voting or some proposal which would allow everybody to vote without an *appel nominal*. So for those who have not been through an *appel nominal* before, what it means is your name is read out and then you have to say who you are voting for. The problem with that is, as the numbers build up, people can be pressurised in one direction or another. I fully agree that the arguments that have been made about secret ballots are absolutely correct, but we are not in a position which is normal, and we are in a position where we need to demonstrate to the public that we are capable of exercising sound judgement, and that does not, in my view, include reappointing somebody to a P&R where the P&R has already asked them to step down and then having to reappoint them

900 again where the same set of circumstances existed for them to step down in the first place. It does not make any sense for us to do that and it would set a dreadful reputational risk for this, as an organisation. So I will just ask Members to support the motion, please ,so we can move on.

Thank you.

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

Members, before you vote, if you turn to the explanatory note on the reverse side of the Proposition you will see at paragraph 4 it sets out how the vote would work. So it is, as Deputy Helyar said, an *appel nominal*. So Members shall state the name of the Deputy for whom they wish to cast their vote upon being called to do so by the States' Greffier. So, States' Greffier Ross would read out the name and then the Deputy would say who they are voting for.

910 Deputy de Sausmarez proposes that, if that motion is passed, she will then ask for a vote on a different form of open voting, which will be you write the name of the person you are voting for on the piece of paper and your name. So that is the alternative if this *appel nominal* does pass. I trust that everybody understood that.

915 So at the moment you are voting for an *appel nominal* open ballot. If that passes, there will be a subsequent motion brought by Deputy de Sausmarez, which will say that rather than an *appel nominal* you write the name of the person you are going to vote for and your name and it will be counted up outside of this room, but then the answers will be published, but it will all be done at the same time as opposed to going around the room.

920 So this is for an *appel nominal*. Somehow I feel like you look more confused than when I started talking. Let us vote on what is before you now and so, States' Greffier, can you open the Proposition, I hope everybody has got that before them, so this is for Deputy Helyar's motion in relation to the vote by *appel nominal*. Can you open the voting please.

925

There was a recorded vote.

Carried – Pour 21, Contre 17, Ne vote pas 2, Did not vote 0, Absent 0

Pour	Contre	Ne vote pas	Did not vote	Absent
Camp, Haley	Blin, Chris	de Sausmarez, Lindsay	None	None
Collins, Garry	Burford, Yvonne	Niles, Andrew		
Curgenvén, Rob	Bury, Tina			
Dorrity, David	Cameron, Andy			
Gabriel, Adrian	Falla, Steve			
Gollop, John	Hansmann Rouxel, Sarah			
Goy, David	Humphreys, Rhona			
Helyar, Mark	Le Brun, Ross			
Hill, Edward	Matthews, Aidan			
Inder, Neil	Oswald, George			
Kay-Mouat, Bruno	Ozanne, Jayne			
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha	Parkinson, Charles			
Laine, Marc	Rochester, Sally			
Leadbeater, Marc	Rylatt, Tom			
Malik, Munazza	Sloan, Andy			
McKenna, Liam	St Pier, Gavin			
Montague, Paul	Strachan, Jennifer			
Snowdon, Alexander				
Van Katwyk, Lee				
Vermeulen, Simon				
Williams, Steve				

930

The Deputy Bailiff: There voted pour 21, contre 17, and there were 2 abstentions, therefore the motion has been passed.

[Motion to Vary 4](#)

To suspend Rule 26D of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation, for the purpose of the current meeting of the States only, to the extent necessary to permit an open ballot to be conducted in a manner prescribed by the Presiding Officer.

935 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez, do you wish to lay your motion and do we wish to circulate the motion first before you lay it?

Deputy de Sausmarez: I think that would be prudent, madam. Thank you. I appreciate that no one in the Chamber has had a chance to read it yet.

940

The Deputy Bailiff: Have you got the hard copies there?

Deputy de Sausmarez: Yes.

945 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Does everybody have hard copies of the motion? Members, can I get your attention please? Members, do you all have hard copies of the motion? (**Several Members:** Yes.) Thank you.

I therefore ask Deputy de Sausmarez to lay her motion.

950 **Deputy de Sausmarez:** Thank you.

Apologies that this was not circulated in advance, it obviously only comes into play – it was dependent upon the previous amendment carrying, so it would not have been relevant before that time, hence the very short notice.

955 But I will explain what it is designed to do and how it would work. I know we are not really allowed to do show and tell, but I have been handed a copy of the voting slip. Everyone is on the edge of their seats now. Full credit to the States' Greffier's team for whipping that up very quickly.

960 The problem has already been articulated, with the *appel nominal*, which is a roll call essentially of Members' names, is that it is sequential voting. As Deputy Helyar alluded to, the further down that roll call we progress the more likely it is that people could feel pressured into or feel as though their vote may have to change compared to their original voting intention. We have seen this happen.

Simultaneous electronic voting is a relatively new thing, the first half roughly of my parliamentary experience, the recorded votes were all done through *appel nominal* and I remember, it is slightly different circumstances, a really critical vote. It was on a motion of no confidence and, exactly as Deputy Helyar described, about two-thirds of the way through the roll call it became clear which way the wind was blowing and a whole raft of people changed their intention to vote accordingly. So it really did skew voter behaviour because it was sequential rather than simultaneous.

965 The advantage of the simultaneous electronic voting that we have is that you do not have that effect., Members cast their votes simultaneously or there or thereabouts and therefore that same pressure that you get through the sequencing does not occur.

970 It has already been explained this morning that we cannot adjust the simultaneous electronic voting to account for the fact that we have three different candidates. So this is the best I could do, it is basically simultaneous analogue voting and, yes, with again many thanks to the States' Greffier team, I dread to think what hour of the night they did this, but I will describe the voting slip that I am holding in my hand, which has been handed to me by the Presiding Officer.

975 It has the name of the motion, which is the Election of a Member of the Policy & Resources Committee, and then it has two boxes underneath. It has the name of the Member voting in the left-hand column and the vote cast for the candidate in the right-hand column. So there are two empty boxes and we, as Members of the Assembly, would write our own name in the left-hand box and the name of the candidate we are voting for in the right-hand box. So it is pretty simple.

980

Deputy Bury hurriedly reminded me it does rely on us all being honest about who we are but we can probably manage that. (*Laughter*) Really, this is simply to improve, in my view, the method of voting from a sequential vote to a simultaneous vote, albeit a bit clunkier than the electronic version might be. I hope that explains it.

985 Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Do you second that, Deputy Burford?

Deputy Burford: I do, thank you.

990

Deputy Inder: 26(1), ma'am.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Inder has proposed a guillotine motion. Those who wish to speak in debate please stand in your place. Do you still wish to put your motion to the Members?

995 The motion by Deputy Inder is that we guillotine debate now. Those who support the motion, please say pour; those against.

Members voted pour.

1000 **The Deputy Bailiff:** The pours win. So therefore, unless you wish to add anything, Deputy de Sausmarez, to your opening, we will therefore go straight to a vote. Unless anybody would like to see the voting slip before they cast their vote.

Deputy Ozanne: Point of order, ma'am.

1005

The Deputy Bailiff: Yes, Deputy Ozanne.

Deputy Ozanne: A question about how one abstains.

1010 **The Deputy Bailiff:** It is always possible to spoil your vote, so you do not need to fill it in, and then have a blank vote or you can spoil a vote. What I would ask is, if it does get voted through, is that you use your very best handwriting. (*Laughter*)

So I will now ask the —

1015 **A Member:** Sorry ma'am.

The Deputy Bailiff: Yes.

1020 **A Member:** Just another point of order. If somebody is going to abstain, should they put their name on the paper and then just not put anything in the candidate section?

The Deputy Bailiff: You can do it either way. If they want to be open about abstaining then you probably should put it, but it will be easy to work out the remaining votes.

Yes, Deputy Kazantseva-Miller?

1025

Deputy Kazantseva-Miller: Ma'am, I am sorry to ask, but I think it is very important. Would the results be published? Because if someone abstains —

The Deputy Bailiff: Yes, the purpose is the *Hansard* vote will be published.

1030

Deputy Kazantseva-Miller: Will there be a verification that the person who put their name put their own name, not someone else's name? Because how would you do that otherwise?

1035 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Well, I can ask the States' Greffier to go through that process but my proposal is that, once the votes are counted, I will announce who will vote today, and that verification process, if we want to do it today, which you would have to put a motion to do, we would then have to delay any further business until that verification process has gone through. So, if you want to vote an additional verification process please propose that, Deputy Kazantseva-Miller, but I would hope, and I suppose that is all I can do, is that all Members – Members, I am talking, 1040 can you please keep your chatter low – would be honest about their names and it would be quite obvious and easily discoverable if somebody else had put their name, and that would be an issue of code of conduct.

But if you want to put a motion about verification, you are welcome to, Deputy Kazantseva-Miller, but I wonder if we need to move on.

1045 So I will therefore ask the States' Greffier to open the voting on the motion to permit the open ballot in the manner described by Deputy de Sausmarez, although it is by official motion prescribed by me. The voting is now open.

There was a recorded vote.

1050

Carried – Pour 36, Contre 0, Ne vote pas 3, Did not vote 1, Absent 0

Pour	Contre	Ne vote pas	Did not vote	Absent
Blin, Chris	None	Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha	Dorrierty, David	None
Burford, Yvonne		Ozanne, Jayne		
Bury, Tina		St Pier, Gavin		
Cameron, Andy				
Camp, Haley				
Collins, Garry				
Curgenven, Rob				
de Sausmarez, Lindsay				
Falla, Steve				
Gabriel, Adrian				
Gollop, John				
Goy, David				
Hansmann Rouxel, Sarah				
Helyar, Mark				
Hill, Edward				
Humphreys, Rhona				
Inder, Neil				
Kay-Mouat, Bruno				
Laine, Marc				
Le Brun, Ross				
Leadbeater, Marc				
Malik, Munazza				
Matthews, Aidan				
McKenna, Liam				
Montague, Paul				
Niles, Andrew				
Oswald, George				
Parkinson, Charles				
Rochester, Sally				
Rylatt, Tom				
Sloan, Andy				
Snowdon, Alexander				
Strachan, Jennifer				
Van Katwyk, Lee				
Vermeulen, Simon				
Williams, Steve				

1055 **The Deputy Bailiff:** There voted in relation to the Proposition, pour 36, and there were 3 abstentions and 1 Member was not in the Chamber at the time of the vote.

So therefore we will use this process of voting and I believe the slips have been circulated, is that correct?

Right, Deputy Inder, do you still wish to put your motion to vary to the Chamber?

1060 **Deputy Inder:** No, ma'am, I do not.

[Motion to Vary 2](#)

To vary Rule 16(5) of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation, for the purposes of the current meeting of the States only, to the extent necessary to permit the following:

The Presiding Officer shall allow Members, irrespective of the number of candidates, to question the candidates before voting takes place;

Provided that:

i. the questions shall relate to areas of the policy included in the mandate of the Policy & Resources Committee;

ii. no Member may ask more than one question, save that if before the expiration of the period prescribed in sub-paragraph vi there are no further questions, Members who have already asked a question may be permitted to ask further questions;

iii. the questioner may not speak for more than 30 seconds;

iv. each candidate shall be entitled to respond to each question, but no response shall exceed 1 minute;

v. candidates shall answer the first question in the order in which they are nominated and thereafter the order of answering the questions shall, after each question has been answered by the candidate, be rotated by moving the name of the candidate at the top of the list to the bottom of that list;

vi. the session shall conclude at the expiration of the period calculated by multiplying 20 minutes by the number of candidates; and

vii. no Member shall be entitled to speak other than in accordance with the provisions of this sub-paragraph.

The Deputy Bailiff: In that case we will move on to – yes, Deputy Gabriel.

1065 **Deputy Gabriel:** I had previously indicated, ma'am, that I would perhaps not lay my motion but, as Deputy Inder has not laid his motion, I still believe that mine carries some weight and I would now like to lay it.

1070 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Unfortunately, in a moment of recklessness, I tore it out of my file because you told me you were not going to lay it. *(Laughter)* So I will just have to get the electronic version. Thank you very much.

Would you like the States' Greffier to read your motion, Deputy Gabriel?

1075 **Deputy Gabriel:** It is quite lengthy, ma'am, but no, I will save him that.

The Deputy Bailiff: In that case I will go straight to you, Deputy Gabriel, to open.

Deputy Gabriel: Thank you, ma'am.

1080 Members, I would like to remind you that the current Rules do not permit questioning of candidates for P&R. I believe, and with my seconder Deputy Dorrity, that it is essential at this particular time in our history – we are in an exceptional circumstance – that the candidate for P&R should be able to be questioned as we do for presidential roles and of course the role of President of P&R.

1085 Rule 16(4)(b), item (iii) and (iv) allows for timings on that. I, perhaps hastily, wanted to include
extra timing for Members to be able to question the candidates for P&R. That is basically what this
amendment or motion to vary does because having a statement by a proposer and the candidate
is all very well but it does not give the Assembly or Members the ability to quiz the candidate on
their ability to respond and on the matters of the day and the matters that could well be facing P&R
in the future.

1090 Of course they may well address those in their statements to the Assembly or their proposer
may do as well. But this gives the Assembly better opportunity to quiz, to ask questions of the
candidates, because P&R holds senior positions, they are responsible for our resources and
negotiating our pay terms with our civil servants, they are responsible for external affairs, they are
responsible for our Treasury and Deputy St Pier has worked exceptionally hard and done a very
1095 good job previously on presenting proposals to the Assembly and business and the wider
population.

This new Member would have to take up one, some, or all of those mantles when on P&R, and
how that will be divvied up as well may not be able to satisfy Members enough just with a statement.
So there it is, this is your opportunity if you want to ask questions of a Member, of a candidate for
1100 P&R, to vote for this. Admittedly, my reasoning for withdrawing was I was relying on Deputy Inder's
motion to carry forward, but unfortunately he has not even laid it.

Because I did have a little pang of conscience because this motion allows for 20 minutes per
candidate of questioning and that breaks a precedent effectively, or could make a precedent,
because 20 minutes is not allowed for in any section of the Rules. Presidential elections carry a
1105 multiplier of 15 minutes but I thought, when I was composing this, perhaps that we needed more
time per candidate and, as we have three candidates, that could take us up to an hour of question
time, which could give enough time to have one or perhaps even two questions that are pertinent
to the P&R mandate to allow them to question the candidates.

So there it is, Members, thank you.

1110 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you.

Deputy Dorrity, do you second that motion?

1115 **Deputy Dorrity:** I do, ma'am.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.
Deputy Burford.

1120 **Deputy Burford:** Thank you.

What Deputy Gabriel did not say was he and I had a lengthy exchange on the basis that this
1125 amendment goes for 20 minutes, in which case members of a Committee are being questioned for
longer than Presidents will for 15. I was going to support Deputy Inder's amendment; I am
disappointed he has not laid it, and as such I have just asked the Greffier, and seconded by
Deputy Hansmann Rouxel, I will lay Deputy Inder's amendment because I am fully supportive of the
proposal but I do think it makes sense to keep it consistent with the Rules.

With 15 minutes, if we are going on a 30-second, 60-second basis, assuming everybody uses all
their time, that is going to be 10 questions per Member, per candidate, and the likelihood is that all
of that time will not be used for the most part, so in fact we could run up to about 13 questions per
candidate. I really feel that if Members cannot make their mind up on who they wish to vote for
1130 after hearing them answer about 13 questions, then perhaps they were going to abstain anyway.

So I am sorry for the extra time that will be involved with this, but the amendment will be
circulated with new names very shortly and I will lay that amendment as an alternative to
Deputy Gabriel's for the purpose of the consistency with the Rules.

Thank you.

1135

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Gollop.

1140 **Deputy Gollop:** When I saw the interest generated by these two amendments –, the first one Deputy Inder pulled but Deputy Burford may restore – I was probably more drawn to the Deputy Gabriel amendment because I wanted more time. I would have gone for half an hour each but then had a 90-minute session. That is the length of a normal hustings and I do not think we should stint too much on this, but it all makes me wish I had almost stood myself.

1145 Because I think we went through a bad period last summer when we elected the successful P&R team very quickly without questions and, as Deputy Gabriel has already pointed out, Policy & Resources membership is not just about helping to serve Deputy de Sausmarez as President and, in a way, Chief Minister. But it does have a creeping semi-executive Cabinet role with lead Members, for the sake of argument, in external affairs or projects or IT or property services or, as has already been mentioned, pay and conditions, remuneration. That needs to be teased out.

1150 For the record, some of us have probably already made up our minds, we have been through that debate, and if we do not want to go through the alleged apocryphal example of the Member who had two ballots, one he showed people, another one he put in, we will not go there. But even if people have made up their minds, the purpose of the questions and answers is to show the mettle and calibre of the candidates and where they stand on issues and the qualities – political, philosophical, economic, commercial, practical, corporate – that they would bring to the role. So it is a useful way of getting their mandates and manifestos on the record.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Sloan.

Deputy Sloan: Thank you, madam.

1160 I will vote for the Proposition and I will appeal to Deputy Burford, through you, madam, not to bring another amendment for the love of God for 15 minutes. I can live without another debate. Thank you very much.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Collins.

1165 **Deputy Collins:** Thank you, ma'am. I will be very brief.

I am quite surprised because I have seen so many Members fill in the slips they have already been given, ma'am, so I do wonder whether their mind would be made up by listening to a number of questions (*Laughter*), whether that is 15 or 20 minutes. I did remind my good friend to my right I would not lend my pen to him until after the election so we have heard all the speeches.

1170 So I was going to vote for this originally, I do not know if I have changed my mind. I will think about it a little bit more.

Thank you, ma'am.

1175 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Hansmann Rouxel.

Deputy Hansmann Rouxel: Thank you, ma'am.

1180 I just wanted to put on record the amendment with just 15 minutes was what I prepared my speech on, and one of the reasons for doing that was Deputy Inder had brought forward a proposal very similar at the start of term for the members of P&R. Members with longer memories will recall that on that previous occasion I had spoken and voted against it.

1185 At the time I had two concerns; the first was procedural. I did not think it was appropriate to alter the Rules governing an election while effectively in the middle of applying them, particularly in the context of a new Assembly still finding its feet procedurally. At that time, the motion came very late in the process and I did not think that afforded candidates or Members sufficient opportunity to prepare for a materially different process.

1190 This situation is different. The motion has been laid with sufficient notice for Members and candidates to understand the proposal and consider it properly and prepare themselves, should the Assembly first agree to it. For me, that materially changes the fairness and procedural certainty considerations, which concerned me previously.

My second concern previously was more substantive. At the time, I was not persuaded that questioning candidates for Committee membership was necessary or particularly helpful. My view was that the Committee members are not ordinarily expected to hold the same breadth of command over their mandate as a President, and do not face questions in the same way as a President does on a regular basis. Therefore, the comparison was not entirely equivalent.

1195 However, ma'am, I have to say that on reflection I have come around to Deputy Inder's way of thinking on this – just on this issue – however in this case he might have changed his mind mercurially such as I have, because this amendment is laid by Deputy Gabriel. I do now see the merit in allowing Members an opportunity to test candidates' understanding of the exceptionally broad and significant mandate of the Policy & Resources Committee, particularly at this stage of the political term and given the central role that the Principal Committee plays within our system of Government.

1200 That is not to say that Members should be subjected to hostile cross-examination or some form of imported adversarial politics, but I do think there is value in allowing Members to ask questions and hear clearly from candidates before making what is an important decision for the Assembly. Quite along the theme of much of what has been debated in this Chamber already, I believe it adds transparency to the process for the public. They can be assured that the person that we elect demonstrated the qualities that would allow them to continue and help P&R go through a process and bring incredibly difficult policy positions to this Assembly and help us make the best decisions in this Assembly.

1205 Should this motion pass, SACC will of course reflect on the views expressed by Members during this debate and consider whether permanent amendment to the Rules ought properly to be brought forward in due course.

Thank you, madam.

1215

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy de Sausmarez.

Deputy de Sausmarez: Thank you, madam.

1220 Just responding to Deputy Hansmann Rouxel's final point there, I would encourage SACC to consider such an amendment to the Rules on a more permanent basis, irrespective of whether this particular amendment carries or not.

1225 My question, which the proposer of the amendment may not know the answer to because I think it is more of a question for the Presiding Officer, is a really practical one. By my rough calculation, I believe that if we have three speeches, or three sets of speeches, a proposer and candidate themselves, equalling probably at least 45 minutes, and then questions, which would under this equal an hour, how we would manage that practically? Would we have to break the question time and then come back to it before taking a vote? So that is my, sorry, quite superficial question, but I am just keen to understand because it may have an impact on how the election can be carried out.

Thank you.

1230

The Deputy Bailiff: Are there any other people who wish to contribute towards the debate?

Yes, Deputy Vermeulen.

1235 **Deputy Vermeulen:** Ma'am, I have come to this meeting knowing who I am going to vote for and I have had the benefit of working with one of them on a Committee for the last four and a half years, and others who I have worked with as well. But not everybody in this Assembly has had that benefit and, given where we are, and the mistakes which perhaps we can, with the benefit of

hindsight, given where we are and seeing the mistakes we have made with certain appointments, I think a bit more scrutiny and transparency is needed. So I am going to support this amendment.

1240 Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Does anybody else wish to speak before I ask Deputy Gabriel to respond? Deputy Gabriel.

1245 **Deputy Gabriel:** Thank you, ma'am. Thank you, Members.

We can change our minds. Thank you, Deputy Hansmann Rouxel, for articulating that. I thank Members for their support and I would also like to thank Deputy Burford for her sage words of advice previously. But, as my amendment was effectively a backstop to Deputy Inder's, and as he has not laid it, we are here, which is where we are.

1250 I would like to see SACC consider this because, as I said, the senior Committee, senior positions have wide-ranging influences, probably more than other Committees, and I do believe that the whole membership should be able to be interviewed in a hustings style, questions quick fire, as the Rules permit for presidentials as 16(5). So, Members, those of you that have said it, I thank you for your support.

1255 Deputy de Sausmarez, I cannot answer your question on the timing because, again, this only calls for 20 minutes of questioning per candidate, after the initial opening statements of course by the proposer and the candidate, and how that would play out in the timings of the Assembly I do not know. That is probably down to yourself as Presiding Officer or even the Greffier. So I would welcome your interpretation and ruling on that.

1260 Members, before we go to the vote, I would encourage you, as Deputy Vermeulen said, this offers you the chance to scrutinise candidates and show some transparency about how we are voting and under what principles.

Thank you.

1265 **The Deputy Bailiff:** In relation to Deputy de Sausmarez's practical question, certainly it was, depending on where we get to, depending on whether we now go to another motion and time goes on a little bit further. Deputy de Sausmarez is right to identify at the moment we have got 45 minutes of a proposer speech and candidate speech, but not everybody takes their 10 minutes. I certainly recall from last time around not everybody took their full 10 minutes. It would be my intention that we then immediately start on the questions, even if we do then have to adjourn, as we normally do, as we do mid-debate on every other matter, for lunch.

1270 I understand there is a presentation at lunchtime for Members and also I am attending a funeral, late Jurat Jamie Toynton's funeral, at lunchtime and I intend to go to that funeral. So we will just adjourn midway through, if we are midway through, in the normal way.

1275 States' Greffier, could you open the voting on the motion for the 20 minutes per candidate of questioning?

There was a recorded vote.

1280 *Carried – Pour 33, Contre 1, Ne vote pas 5, Did not vote 1, Absent 0*

Pour	Contre	Ne vote pas	Did not vote	Absent
Blin, Chris	Helyar, Mark	Burford, Yvonne	Bury, Tina	None
Cameron, Andy		de Sausmarez, Lindsay		
Camp, Haley		Hansmann Rouxel, Sarah		
Collins, Garry		Niles, Andrew		
Curgenvin, Rob		St Pier, Gavin		
Dorrity, David				
Falla, Steve				
Gabriel, Adrian				
Gollop, John				

Goy, David
Hill, Edward
Humphreys, Rhona
Inder, Neil
Kay-Mouat, Bruno
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha
Laine, Marc
Le Brun, Ross
Leadbeater, Marc
Malik, Munazza
Matthews, Aidan
McKenna, Liam
Montague, Paul
Oswald, George
Ozanne, Jayne
Parkinson, Charles
Rochester, Sally
Rylatt, Tom
Sloan, Andy
Snowdon, Alexander
Strachan, Jennifer
Van Katwyk, Lee
Vermeulen, Simon
Williams, Steve

The Deputy Bailiff: There voted pour 33, contre 1, there were 5 abstentions and 1 Member was not in the Chamber at the time of the vote. I therefore declare that this proposition has been passed.

1285

[Motion to Vary 5](#)

To vary Rule 16(5) of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees, for the purposes of the current meeting of the States only, to the extent necessary to permit the following:

The Presiding Officer shall allow Members, irrespective of the number of candidates, to question the candidates before voting takes place;

Provided that:

- i. the questions shall relate to areas of the policy included in the mandate of the Policy & Resources Committee;*
- ii. no Member may ask more than one question, save that if before the expiration of the period prescribed in sub-paragraph vi there are no further questions, Members who have already asked a question may be permitted to ask further questions;*
- iii. the questioner may not speak for more than 30 seconds;*
- iv. each candidate shall be entitled to respond to each question, but no response shall exceed 1 minute;*
- v. candidates shall answer the first question in the order in which they are nominated and thereafter the order of answering the questions shall, after each question has been answered by the candidate, be rotated by moving the name of the candidate at the top of the list to the bottom of that list;*
- vi. the session shall conclude at the expiration of the period calculated by multiplying 15 minutes by the number of candidates; and*
- vii. no Member shall be entitled to speak other than in accordance with the provisions of this sub-paragraph.*

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Burford, do you intend to lay the subsequent motion?

Deputy Burford: With apologies to Deputy Sloan, yes.

1290

The Deputy Bailiff: I will ask the Sheriff to kindly distribute the hard copy of the motion.

I believe there is an error on the current motion. At paragraph vi it says:

The session shall conclude at the expiration of the period calculated by multiplying ...

1295 And that should be:

... 15 minutes by the number of candidates.

1300 Otherwise we will just get a repeat of the previous motion. *(Laughter)* It is some kind of groundhog day for Deputy Sloan. We will ensure that the electronic version has the correct amount on it and please take note that should be written in as 15 minutes, not 20 minutes.

I therefore ask Deputy Burford to propose the motion.

Deputy Burford: Thank you, ma'am.

1305 Yes, as I rehearsed before, I did have long and fruitful discussions with Deputy Gabriel but clearly he was put into a situation that he was not quite expecting. So I will keep this short and not try Members' time.

1310 This is an on-the-hoof motion that Members have had over a week to examine, so it is simply a case that I do not see a reason for subjecting the members of a Committee to a longer question period than the President of that Committee; that would seem a little perverse. So I would simply ask Members to support this motion and also, while speaking, I can say that, as a member with a different hat on of the States' Assembly & Constitution Committee, we have discussed this and we will be very keen to look at this as a permanent change to the Rules for this particular Committee, not for Committees generally. So I would ask Members support for this 15-minute motion.

Thank you.

1315

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Hansmann Rouxel, do you second the motion?

Deputy Hansmann Rouxel: I do.

1320 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Do you wish to speak now?

Deputy Hansmann Rouxel: No.

1325 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Does anybody wish to speak in debate on this motion?
Deputy Gabriel.

Deputy Gabriel: Can I ask a procedural question ma'am?

If this passes, does the previous motion to vary fall away as soon as that has passed? That is my only query.

1330 Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Yes, because I certainly will read it to mean that it is essentially varying the same Rule 16(5), so it is varying that 16(5) again, and this will interpose itself on top of the previous amendment and therefore replace it. So it will be 15 minutes rather than 20 minutes.

1335 Does anybody else wish to speak? Deputy Burford, do you wish to respond?

Deputy Burford: No, thank you, ma'am.

1340 **The Deputy Bailiff:** In that case I will ask the States' Greffier, has it been changed on the SEV? Members will now see at vi:

The session shall conclude at the expiration of the period calculated by multiplying 15 minutes by the number of candidates.

States' Greffier, would you open the voting on this motion.

1345 *There was a recorded vote.*

Carried – Pour 32, Contre 2, Ne vote pas 4, Did not vote 2, Absent 0

Pour	Contre	Ne vote pas	Did not vote	Absent
Blin, Chris	Gollop, John	Camp, Haley	Bury, Tina	None
Burford, Yvonne	Helyar, Mark	Dorrity, David	Sloan, Andy	
Cameron, Andy		Niles, Andrew		
Collins, Garry		St Pier, Gavin		
Curgenven, Rob				
de Sausmarez, Lindsay				
Falla, Steve				
Gabriel, Adrian				
Goy, David				
Hansmann Rouxel, Sarah				
Hill, Edward				
Humphreys, Rhona				
Inder, Neil				
Kay-Mouat, Bruno				
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha				
Laine, Marc				
Le Brun, Ross				
Leadbeater, Marc				
Malik, Munazza				
Matthews, Aidan				
McKenna, Liam				
Montague, Paul				
Oswald, George				
Ozanne, Jayne				
Parkinson, Charles				
Rochester, Sally				
Rylatt, Tom				
Snowdon, Alexander				
Strachan, Jennifer				
Van Katwyk, Lee				
Vermeulen, Simon				
Williams, Steve				

1350 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Sloan, are you choosing not to vote?

There voted, in relation to this motion, pour 32, contre 2, there were 4 abstentions on SEV and there were 2 Members who did not vote, 1 who was not in the Chamber and 1 who exercised his right not to vote. I therefore declare this motion as passed.

1355 We now move on to speeches. I will ask Deputy de Sausmarez, as proposer of Deputy Niles, for a five-minute speech on why she is proposing him.

Deputy de Sausmarez: Thank you, madam.

I am pleased to nominate Deputy Andrew Niles for membership of the Policy & Resources Committee.

1360 Given the unusual circumstances of this election, I will, with Deputy Niles's kind agreement, briefly break with protocol to place on record my thanks to Deputy St Pier for his valuable contribution to the Committee since the start of this term, in which his experience and capability have been a real asset.

1365 Guernsey's policy and resourcing challenges ahead are significant and this Committee must keep a calm and steady hand on the tiller as we navigate them. Deputy Niles is, in our view, the right

person at the right time. He is not someone who is motivated by ego or personal ambition. He is clear-eyed about the work involved on P&R, and he is very much ready to put his shoulder to the wheel to move the Island forward with the economy and the community's best interests at heart.

1370 He has hit the ground running in this political term and he has the energy, drive and focus to keep that pace high. I have always believed in bringing together different perspectives, different skills, and different ways of approaching problems, and Deputy Niles can certainly add value to our Committee dynamic. Over the past five and a half years, he has developed a good grounding in Government through his roles on the Committee for Economic Development, initially as a non-voting member, and since July last year as its Vice-President, as well as this term as
1375 Vice-President of the States' Trading and Supervisory Board.

With his Economic Development hat on, Deputy Niles has worked extensively on areas central to our economy, including on both the development of and delivery structures for the Finance Sector Growth Strategy. As part of that, he has led extensive engagement with industry leaders representing a substantial proportion of Guernsey's finance sector workforce.

1380 Deputy Niles has worked on air connectivity strategy and policy development this term, following on from his close involvement in improving sea connectivity and resilience issues in the previous political term. He has had roles overseeing the delivery of the new Guernsey Registry and in work relating to the Office of the Public Trustee and Financial Regulator. He is the Chair of the Financial Growth Forum and the Finance Sector Forum. On the latter, I have had the pleasure of
1385 working alongside him as well as in a number of other contexts, both on and off Island.

It is clear that he is well liked and respected for good reason. His effectiveness comes not only from a strong command of his brief but from his ability to listen and to respond with calm, thoughtful and considered judgement. Of particular relevance to fulfilling one of the Committee's most immediate super-priorities, Deputy Niles served for two years on the Tax Review Working
1390 Group looking at tax transformation in the previous term. His role as Vice-President of the STSB this term has further broadened his involvement in and understanding of Government, intersecting with different Committees and dealing with very practical implementation of policy.

Alongside his roles in Government, Deputy Niles brings over 30 years' experience in international banking, having worked at senior levels with major global institutions such as HSBC, Standard
1395 Chartered, and the Bank of China. He has developed and implemented international client strategies and worked across multiple jurisdictions and market environments. His commercial, financial and strategic background and experience, operating across different political, regulatory and cultural environments, can add huge value to the Committee's work.

Deputy Niles also brings a particular approach to decision-making. He is comfortable working
1400 with different viewpoints and contributing constructively to collective decisions while not being afraid to challenge where he considers that appropriate. He will, I have no doubt, bring breadth, depth and robustness to the Committee's thinking. He has, as I know from having worked with him, and as many others will attest, both thoughtful and pragmatic qualities which would stand the Committee in good stead in delivering its sizable mandate.

1405 Madam, P&R is at its strongest when it draws on a range of experience, perspective and approach, and when it combines political insight with commercial understanding and a clear focus on delivering. For these reasons, I commend Deputy Niles to the Assembly as someone who will bring strength and depth to the Policy & Resources Committee at this important point in time.

Thank you.

1410 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you.
Deputy Niles.

1415 **Deputy Niles:** Madam, I would like to thank my proposer and to P&R for the words that they have put together today.

Madam, I regret the circumstances that brought this election before the Assembly today and many Islanders would have wished for different circumstances and, frankly, so would I. But we are

where we are. If we are to succeed in the years ahead, then we must be willing to think differently, work differently, and make positive decisions necessary to take the Island forward.

1420 When Deputy de Sausmarez and I met for a detailed conversation over the weekend, I spoke openly about the fact that I do, in many respects, think differently. That is probably precisely why P&R have nominated me. I am not driven primarily by ideology. I understand ideology, but I am far more interested in outcomes, delivery and whether something works.

1425 If we are honest with ourselves, this Assembly asks an extraordinary thing of the people of Guernsey; it asks the electorate to choose 38 independent candidates, often with very different experiences, priorities and political instincts, and then expects them to come together and govern effectively as a collective. That is very difficult work; it requires resilience, compromise, listening and the ability to work constructively with people who may see the world very differently from you.

1430 Throughout my career I have often found myself working alongside people who viewed politics, economics and decision-making differently from me. In my final role in banking, I was interviewed by senior executives at the Bank of China, including its Chairman. During that conversation, I asked him a deliberately difficult question about political reform and democratic development in China. He paused for a moment and then gave me an answer that stayed with me. He said, 'In China, we regard democracy as one of the most beautiful gems in a jewellery box, but every country must find

1435 its own way and its own pace of change'.

Whether one agrees with that perspective or not is almost beside the point. What struck me was that from that moment onwards our conversations between he and I were never simply about financial performance again. They became discussions about culture, governance, change and how societies adapt under pressure. There is a lesson in that for us here today; good governance depends on being prepared to ask difficult questions, challenge assumptions and recognise when systems or behaviours need to evolve if outcomes need to improve. Because, if we are honest again, Guernsey now faces a period where change is unavoidable.

1440 We face structural, fiscal pressure, increasing operating costs, rising public expectations and growing demands on public services. We are debating fundamental tax reform because the current model is no longer sufficient on its own to sustain the Island in the way that we would wish. At the same time, we are competing internationally for investment, business and talent in an increasingly aggressive and global environment. That is why economic growth matters.

1445 During this term of Government, I have had the privilege of helping to lead the review of Guernsey's Financial Sector Strategy, a sector that contributes approximately 43% of our GDP directly and around 47% of all tax revenues raised by the Island. Those are extraordinary numbers. They demonstrate not only the importance of the sector itself but the extent to which the prosperity of the wider Island depends upon maintaining economic competitiveness, stability and confidence.

1450 Over the recent months, I have engaged directly one to one with leaders across industry who collectively represent approximately half of all of the employment in that sector. What I have heard consistently from them was clear: Guernsey needs confidence, clarity, delivery and the willingness to adapt, not endless process, not endless debate, not drift, not institutional paralysis. We need delivery.

1455 If we are honest, governments and organisations rarely change when they remain comfortable. Change often and only begins once people recognise that continuing as we are is no longer sustainable. This discomfort should not frighten us. It should motivate us. At the age of 60, I have now spent as much of my life living internationally as I have in Guernsey. I have worked across different cultures, institutions and political environments. Over the years, I have been asked to build and implement international client strategies for three of Asia's largest banks.

1460 In public life here, I have worked on sea connectivity, air connectivity, tax, the Registry Transformation Project, the Office of Public Trustee, and most recently, as I have said, the Finance Sector Growth Strategy, and all of its delivery structures, which count for more than the strategy itself.

1465 One of the privileges that I have had over the last five and a half years has been working alongside many people who are here today, and both past and current presidents of Economic

1470 Development. If I am to leave that Committee, if elected today, it would be genuinely difficult for me because, with due respect to the now President of the DPA, the current President of Economic Development is a driven, committed and thoughtful political leader, and I believe Guernsey is very fortunate to have her.

1475 But I have chosen to make myself vulnerable today, standing here, because I believe this Assembly needs to assemble the strongest possible team to guide the Island through what is likely to be one of the most difficult political and economic periods we have faced for many years. This is not about personal ambition; it is about whether we are prepared to bring together different experiences, different perspectives and different ways of thinking in order to improve decision-making and restore confidence in our delivery.

1480 If elected, I will bring commercial experience, international perspective, collaborative working and a relentless focus on delivery, and I will do so recognising fully the seriousness of the challenges now facing this Assembly and our Island.

Thank you.

1485 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you, Deputy Niles.
Deputy Van Katwyk, what did you want to say?

Deputy Van Katwyk: I thought we were moving straight into questions, but I will sit down.

1490 **The Deputy Bailiff:** No, we have to let the other candidates do their speech as well.
Deputy Dorrity, speaking as proposer of Deputy Camp.

Deputy Dorrity: Thank you, madam.

1495 Madam, I am delighted to propose Deputy Camp as a member of the Policy & Resources Committee. Deputy Camp and I go back some way. We first met supporting a group of teenagers through the Young Enterprise Scheme and somehow, despite that experience, we both still decided public life was a good idea, (*Laughter*) and here we now are, reunited again and serving together as People's Deputies.

1500 Before entering the States, Deputy Camp built a successful career spanning over 20 years in international financial services, working across a range of businesses and running her own consultancy firm. She established a strong reputation in governance, risk and compliance, particularly in the investment fund sector. She represented the industry on the Guernsey Investment & Funds Association for over 11 years, including five years as Chair of its Technical Committee and five years on its Executive Committee, before ultimately serving as Chair of the Association itself for the maximum term permitted. So when Deputy Camp entered this Assembly she was certainly no stranger to policy, regulation or robust debate with officials.

1505 Since her election last year she has made an immediate impact. She has challenged the States' approach to budgeting, secured support for zero-based budgeting practices, and successfully amended the Government Work Plan to ensure economic growth, competitiveness and productivity sit at its core. Within Economic Development, Deputy Camp leads on regulation, tax and digital assets, all complex areas, drawing on her extensive prior experience.

As a qualified barrister, she brings a strong grounding in legal principles and forensic attention to detail, developed alongside more than a decade in senior executive roles.

1515 As Chair of the Legislation Review Panel, Deputy Camp has already demonstrated her ability to navigate the distinction between political intent and effective legislative drafting, a rarer skill than it perhaps should be. Her election to Education Devolution & Delegation Investigation & Advisory Committee (EDDIAC) and subsequent appointment as Vice-Chair reflects the confidence her colleagues already place in her capability and work ethic, particularly noting EDDIAC was established with a preference for Deputies of a longer tenure.

1520 Deputy Camp's professional achievements are matched by personal resilience. She built an impressive career while raising her son as a single parent, and also qualified as a barrister while

balancing those other responsibilities. She, as much as anyone, understands the pressures facing families and young people in Guernsey today.

1525 I believe Deputy Camp brings something particularly valuable at this moment. She combines deep pre-States' policy experience with a fresh perspective and approaches the role with rigour, independence and a clear focus on delivery and outcomes.

At a time when Policy & Resources require strong, credible and delivery-focused leadership, Deputy Camp offers exactly that. I urge colleagues to support her election.

Thank you.

1530

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.
Deputy Camp.

Deputy Camp: Thank you.

1535 I must first thank Deputies Dorrity and Collins for agreeing to support me today. I also thank those colleagues who have offered encouragement, challenge and frank conversations over recent weeks. Those conversations have been valuable because standing for Policy & Resources is not something that should ever be done lightly. I said from the outset that one important reason for standing was to ensure choice. But I am not here simply to offer choice. I am here because I believe
1540 I am the right choice.

Policy & Resources is not just another Committee. It sits at the constitutional and strategic centre of Government. It leads and co-ordinates the Machinery of Government, manages the public finances, drives strategic policy, provides political leadership, and represents this Island in constitutional and external affairs. Its job is not to do everybody else's work. Its job is to make sure
1545 Government works. If we are honest with ourselves, that is precisely where confidence has been shaken.

This is not a routine appointment at a routine moment. Guernsey faces sustained fiscal pressure, uncertainty over long-term revenues, significant capital demands, increasing international expectations, and an economy that cannot rely indefinitely on past models of success. At the same
1550 time, public confidence in Government is being tested. People see drift. They see projects that do not land as intended. They see governance structures without accountability. They see significant sums wasted. The conclusion many draw is simple: Government cannot deliver. Worse, many have come to believe that it does not matter to politicians when we fail.

Our problem is not a lack of ideas, it is a lack of disciplined prioritisation and delivery. Apologies,
1555 that is not a good time for my device to switch off. That discipline must be most visible at the centre of Government itself.

So, why me? Because I focus on delivery, not just articulation. Because the skills required at the centre of Government are not theoretical to me. They are what I have spent my professional life
1560 doing. Before entering this Assembly, I spent more than 20 years operating in complex, highly-regulated and high-stakes environments on Guernsey. I have often been brought into situations where things were not working as they should and expected to work with management teams to fix them.

I have led organisations through regulatory remediation, operational change, corporate integration and business growth, often juggling multiple outcomes at once. I have managed
1565 substantial budgets, justified difficult decisions, and worked in environments where governance failures carried real legal consequences. I have stepped into difficult situations, brought structure to complexity and delivered outcomes, always strategic, always measurable. That is not theory.

Through more than a decade representing the funds industry, both through GIFA and GIBA, I have not simply supported policy; I have been selected by my industry to challenge it, shape it,
1570 and, where necessary, push for change. That has included calling for greater preparedness around MONEYVAL, pressing for more meaningful dialogue between industry and Government, and challenging how we approach regulatory innovation, enforcement and risk appetite; all issues more relevant and pressing today in fact than when I first brought them to Government's attention.

1575 They go directly to how we sustain and evolve the part of our economy that funds so much of what we do as a Government. Because diversification does not happen overnight we must sustain what we have, even as we build what comes next. Managed decline is not an option.

At the same time I have seen and engaged with families who feel let down by the system; families who encounter barriers across housing, health, education and care, and who feel that if they are not straightforward to deal with they are too often left behind. Guernsey must work for them too.

1580 So my focus has not been abstract, it has been on outcomes both economic and social, and on ensuring the system works for the whole community and not just the select few.

The public can handle difficult truths. What they will not accept is distance, opacity or a lack of accountability. I recognise the obvious question. I am a first-time Deputy. Some colleagues may feel Policy & Resources should be reserved for longer-serving Members, or those who have been non-States' Members. I understand that view. Experience matters, but relevant experience matters too. Independence has value, fresh perspective has value, and practical leadership experience has value.

1590 I am not relying on past experience alone. During this term I have applied it to understanding how our own Machinery of Government operates and at times where it does not. Through EDDIAC and scrutiny work I have worked on issues that go to the heart of central Government capability, finance, HR and property; the systems that underpin delivery.

Through the GST Steering Group and Tax Review Sub-Committee I have engaged in detailed work on fiscal sustainability and economic impact. Through scrutiny of the States' Investment Board, I am examining governance, accountability and decision-making in depth. I challenge the way we approach budgeting, securing this Assembly's support for stronger financial discipline not as a theoretical exercise but to enable proper scrutiny of how public money is used.

1600 I have already brought my extensive work on contracts, both shaping them, drafting and negotiating them and challenging them to the fore in my Committee work to date, recommending changes in fraught circumstances and identifying structural weaknesses, establishing a clear need for lessons learned to flow in future contract work. I do not raise issues and move on. I follow them through until they result in change or a clear decision by this Assembly.

Throughout my time in this Assembly, I have focused not just on what we say but on what we do. This Assembly has no shortage of strong speakers, but P&R requires something different. It requires people who ensure that decisions are not just debated but delivered, who stay with an issue beyond the speech, into the detail, into the implementation and into the outcome. It requires consistency both in public and when behind closed doors.

1610 At present the emphasis of our fiscal work is clear. Significant effort has gone into developing revenue options. The same cannot yet be said for a comprehensive and deliverable approach to spending restraint. This is not a sustainable balance. These are not new observations. We have been talking about them for some time and I have been prepared, wherever necessary, to support operating with less and to do so consistently, both publicly and in Committee.

My approach has been to do the work, bringing forward amendments that change outcomes, challenge assumptions that do not withstand scrutiny, and intervene on detail before it becomes costly failure. Too often in politics we mistake saying something for doing something, but it is not the strength of the speech that determines success, it is the strength of the outcome.

1620 If elected today I would bring financial discipline rooted in honest prioritisation, rigorous challenge and evidence-based decision-making. Not performative savings, not comfortable assumptions, but real scrutiny of how public money is allocated and whether it delivers. That requires clear governance, realistic planning and accountability understood from the outset and upheld for the duration.

I would favour a genuinely collegiate approach. Policy & Resources cannot succeed as a fortress. It must lead through collaboration across Committees, across the Assembly and, critically, with the community it serves. Guernsey is capable of better, but better will not happen by accident. It will require clarity, discipline, collaboration and leadership. That is what I offer.

1625 To be clear about what that means in practice, it means strengthening how we optimise and scrutinise public spending so that decisions are genuinely affordable and properly understood. It means ensuring that major programmes are governed effectively from the outset, with clear accountability, realistic milestones and delivery that can be measured. It means reducing unnecessary friction in our economy, so that growth is supported in practice, not just in principle.

1630 I am not here to make promises. I am here to make decisions. In all my decisions, I will have the interests of the people of Guernsey in the forefront of my mind and not the institution which spends their money. If colleagues believe there are other qualities needed at the centre of Government at this moment, I would be honoured to serve.

Thank you.

1635

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.
Deputy Leadbeater.

Deputy Leadbeater: Thank you, Madam Deputy Bailiff.

1640 I rise to propose the re-election of Deputy Gavin St Pier to the Policy & Resources Committee. I do so not because this is an easy situation nor because I underestimate the seriousness of the circumstances surrounding it. But I believe this Assembly has a duty to make a calm, measured and responsible judgement based on nothing other than the facts before us today.

1645 The facts before us today are these. Deputy St Pier has not been charged with any offence. He strongly denies wrongdoing and throughout this period he has continued to discharge his duties on P&R diligently and effectively.

1650 Madam, today's decision is not a criminal judgement. It is not for this Assembly to second-guess an ongoing police investigation or to substitute itself for the proper legal process. The justice system must be allowed to do its work independently and fairly. What we are being asked to decide is something much narrower, whether Deputy St Pier should continue to serve on P&R at this point in time. In my view, the answer is yes.

1655 Madam, this Assembly has already experienced more than its fair share of instability during this political term, so now, more than ever, continuity and experience matter. Deputy St Pier is one of the Assembly's most experienced Members in matters relating to treasury, taxation and fiscal policy. Members may differ with him politically – I have many times over the years – but I do not think anyone can seriously dispute the depth of his experience and knowledge in those areas. That experience and knowledge is particularly important because one of the most significant pieces of work before this Assembly is the ongoing tax reform programme. This is a flagship area of work for P&R and one which will have long-term implications for the whole Island.

1660 Deputy St Pier has been heavily involved in shaping and scrutinising that work. Removing one of the principal figures involved at this stage risks creating further instability and uncertainty at precisely the wrong moment.

1665 I would also point Members to the valuable role he has undertaken as the P&R link member to the Committee *for* Home Affairs. Through that engagement he has developed a detailed understanding of a number of operational and strategic issues we face, which sit outside of Home Affairs but within the wider responsibilities of P&R, including matters relating to the estate and engagement with the States Property Unit. That knowledge and understanding has and should continue to help both Committees work closer together.

1670 Madam, no one is indispensable but equally we should not lightly discard experience and continuity, and Government most needs steadiness. Some Members may understandably feel uncomfortable supporting Deputy St Pier's return while an investigation remains ongoing, and I respect that position. But if we move towards effectively disqualifying individuals from public office solely because an allegation exists, absence of any charge or conviction, then we enter difficult constitutional territory. Fairness matters and so does due process, and we should be careful not to abandon either under political pressure.

1675

1680 I also think it is important to recognise the manner in which Deputy St Pier has approached this matter. He resigned his position and has returned openly to seek a fresh mandate from this Assembly. Members should properly take that openness into account. Madam, if circumstances materially change in the future then naturally matters may need to be reconsidered, but we must decide based on the facts as they stand today, not on speculation or assumption as matters stand today. As an Assembly representing our Island, we must be careful that whatever decisions we make we do not cut our nose off just to spite our face. Based on those facts, I believe the interests of stable and effective Government are best served by returning Deputy St Pier to the P&R Committee. I therefore urge Members to support his re-election.

1685 Thank you, madam.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

Deputy St Pier: Thank you.

1690 Before I begin, may I warmly welcome our new colleague, Deputy Le Brun, to his first meeting of the States and congratulate him on what was a well-earned victory in the by-election?

1695 Thank you also to my proposer and seconder, Deputies Leadbeater and Blin. By choosing to do so, I value the confidence that they have shown in me, and I also recognise that under the circumstances of this election it has required both their courage and the deployment of personal political capital.

I would also like to thank the very many people in and outside the States who have offered their support. It is not taken for granted and it is greatly valued. For those Members who have expressed concern for my welfare, rest assured that my leaner and fitter self before you today has been an intentional and, I am pleased to say, successful response to high blood pressure.

1700 I suspect that most Members of the States have not welcomed this election. At the very least, it is an unfortunate distraction from the very real priorities of Government. I know that many Members feel that I had no reason to resign and should not have done so; I understand that perspective.

1705 But as dealing with the consequences of the decision to put into the public domain information, which is not normally put into the public domain, and given the nature of the allegations, I felt that I had no choice but to give the States the opportunity to consider my ongoing participation in P&R. The only mechanism available for me to do that was the one I have chosen; to resign and seek re-election.

1710 I am seeking re-election because I believe I am more than capable of continuing to serve on P&R pending the outcome of the investigation. Indeed, that is exactly what I have been doing for the last six months. But if Members do not agree, then they can collectively own that decision by voting for another candidate.

1715 I recognise that the States have been placed in a very difficult position. Madam, I know that they are being asked to make an important decision with no meaningful information with which to make that decision. I reiterate that I totally reject allegations of any wrongdoing with respect to any offences. But beyond that, I am unable to give Members any further information to assist them.

1720 This is for two reasons. Firstly, no one should have provided, or should be providing, a commentary on a live investigation. Secondly, because I have very little information to share. It is not at all clear from the interview that I had the specific conduct in public office which is being investigated. There is no material difference between the situation now and the situation in December. I have not been charged, far less convicted, of any offence.

1725 But today is not and cannot be about the States seeking to make a judgement on a matter which is reserved for the criminal justice system. Today is about making a political judgement about who is the best candidate to serve the States on Policy & Resources at the present time. I submit, with my experience and knowledge, that I am the best candidate. I not only have the requisite experience, having led both Treasury & Resources and Policy & Resources for eight years, but I have also discharged the role without substantive criticism since last July. I have also done so without any loss of commitment or output since December.

1730 Since July, I have fulfilled the role as Resources lead, effectively the combination of the Treasury
& Corporate Services lead roles in the last term. In a Committee whose name is Policy
& Resources, it makes sense that Resources should be co-ordinated under one political lead. This
1735 comprises treasury, property, IT, HR and operations. In that role, I have met with the Treasurer every
two weeks and the heads of IT, the States Property Unit, HR and Operations every month. This has
helped ensure that the whole Committee receives information for its operational areas of
responsibility in a more timely manner, which has been critical for keeping issues moving forward,
particularly in relation to property and IT, with Deputy Laine's input too.

1740 With the Treasury hat on, I have participated in monthly meetings of the States Investment
Board, overseeing the investment of our reserves. My experience in this area is unique within this
Assembly, having both helped design the SIB, as well as my previous eight years' experience chairing
the SIB's predecessors, the Investment Sub-Committee, and then the Investment and Bond
Sub-Committee.

1745 I also diligently meet every month in a liaison role with the Presidents of both Home Affairs and
Health & Social Care, providing an effective and vital link to P&R, which undoubtedly assists both
P&R and those Committees. Both Committees, but especially HSC as our largest spending
Committee, are going to need substantial support from P&R, as we will hear shortly from HSC in
their Update Statement.

If we are to navigate the substantial challenges we face in Health & Care, and if we are to adapt
the delivery of services to meet changing demand in a more cost-effective way, for example, we are
going to need to help them substantially strengthen their IT capacity.

1750 Having served on HSC for a little over a year, and with both my Resources and HSC liaison hat
on, I am best placed to assist HSC in managing those challenges, and I have already demonstrated
that in the last nine months.

1755 I serve on the Tax Review Sub-Committee, whose next phase, of course, is due to continue
beyond the debate in July. The only other Deputy who has the background and experience to
provide a balanced, meaningful input and challenge to this crucial work is the Chair,
Deputy Charles Parkinson. We should not be reducing our expertise in this area of work by 50%.

In addition, my prior leadership roles have readily enabled me to provide additional support to
Deputies de Sausmarez and Falla on the external relations field when required. My capacity and
work ethic has never been questioned.

1760 Of course, no one is indispensable. I am not suggesting that my role cannot be carved up and
redistributed amongst a newly constituted Committee. Clearly, it can be. If that is the States'
decision, it will be. But that does not mean that it will be the best outcome, either for the Committee
or the States as a whole.

1765 Whilst I am not the Committee's nominee, as Deputy Van Katwyk said, we all continue to work
with those who may not have voted for us. As Members know, the reasons for this election are
unique. But there is no doubt that I am able to work well with all the other four members of the
Committee. That has been demonstrated every day without question since last July, and most
recently at a full day's meeting of P&R yesterday.

1770 Members will understandably, perhaps, be anxious to avoid any further development regarding
my personal situation being played out in the future. I cannot, of course, say how much longer the
investigation will take because I do not know. But whilst inquiries are ongoing, it is unnecessary that
the States should be without the best team on the pitch, particularly during this term, at this time,
not least with the tax debate imminent. Now is not the time to be subbing me out. Now is the time
to fully utilise, not waste, all the experience available.

1775 Madam, with limited information, I urge Members to vote with what is known, not what is
unknown. Members know my track record. Members know my experience. Members know me. And
Members know I can continue to discharge the role. With humility, I submit that Members know
that I am the best available and most experienced candidate in this election today.

Thank you, madam.

1780 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you, Deputy St Pier.

Members, we will now start a period of 45 minutes of questioning. I will ask the nominees to stay in their seats and simply stand when it is their opportunity to answer the question. Can I remind you of the Rules that relate to these questions? They are about the mandate of the P&R Committee. We ask one Member one question and then only if once all the questions are finished, and the time has not run out, you get an opportunity. The questions are only 30 seconds long and I will be rigorous in holding you to the Rules that you have just voted in. The answers must be given within one minute. So, 30-minute question, one minute answer. The order in which we will do it, we will start with Deputy Niles, then Deputy Camp, Deputy St Pier for the first question. The second question will be Deputy Camp, Deputy St Pier, Deputy Niles, and then so on and so on. So we constantly turn the wheel in terms of who goes first.

1790 With that preamble, who would like to ask the first question?

Deputy Van Katwyk.

Deputy Van Katwyk: Thank you, ma'am.

1795 I have had the utmost pleasure of working with Deputy Niles on the Committee for Economic Development. As I understand it, if he is successful in ascending to the Committee in the clouds, he will have to give up that role. However, he does not have to give up his role on STSB. Could Deputy Niles please clarify for us how he intends to deal with that situation?

Thank you.

1800

Deputy Niles: Thank you very much.

You are quite right, I will be required to give up my position immediately if elected on Economic Development. I have indicated to the President of STSB that I would remain on STSB. I think that there is an integral link between Policy & Resources and their oversight and engagement with STSB as shareholder owner of the assets and utilities in the Island.

1805

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

Members, the questions really should be ones that can be asked to each of the Members. Unless Deputy Camp or Deputy St Pier have a particular response in relation to the question, which really only could be answerable by Deputy Niles, I will give you the opportunity.

1810

Deputy Camp.

Deputy Camp: I think it is only obviously worse, so the other Committees that I sit on are dependent upon me not being voted to P&R. So those discussions have already been had in the eventuality that I have to stand down from Economic Development, Scrutiny and from EDDIAC as well.

1815

Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

1820

Deputy St Pier.

Deputy St Pier: Madam, I consider the other candidates extremely well placed in the Committees they are, and they should be left there. *(Laughter)* For that reason, Members should vote for me.

1825

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Sloan.

Deputy Sloan: Madam, may I ask the candidates whether they agree extending social security contributions on to savings investment and why not of income under GST Plus, and whether they support the accompanying extension of welfare-style compensatory payments, such as the Essential Cost Relief Payment?

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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Camp, if you managed to catch what Deputy Sloan said extremely quickly.

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Deputy Camp: It can be incredibly difficult with Deputy Sloan but I think I have got the gist, and I am sure he will correct me if I am wrong.

1840

Extending social security, the GST package needs so much more clarity and detail. I know at this point in time it is a proposed set of potential proposals, and my understanding is that P&R are already looking at the social security elements because there are issues around. Clearly there are questions now being raised about the extension to worldwide income, and I personally do have worries about our extension of the social security environment to a far wider part of our population.

I have grown up on the basis that actually we would rather be out of it than in it, and we appear to be extending the scale and scope.

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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

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Deputy St Pier: Madam, the questions that have been raised recently in relation to social security, including the one referenced by Deputy Sloan, I think have been recognised by the P&R as being very real. And, as Deputy Camp has said, there are no firm proposals yet but the issues are being given active consideration by P&R. Indeed, at the meeting that P&R had yesterday, it was one of the topics under consideration.

1855

In relation to the Essential Costs Relief Payment, yes, I do support that on the basis that it is – I do regard it as one of the necessary mitigations for the introduction of a consumption tax, so I think that directly answers the question which Deputy Sloan asked.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Niles.

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Deputy Niles: Thank you, Deputy Sloan, for your question.

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We have had some direct correspondence and discussion on this issue, and it is something also that I raised directly with P&R when we had discussions on Sunday. The discussions that we had is that in the intervening period between January when the original Proposition was laid for the GST discussions to continue, it was not entirely clear within that as to how extending social security was going to be. Now there are some worrying concerns about the application for unowned income and upper limits. Deputy de Sausmarez has given me some assurances that this is something that has been ongoing and it is something I would want to have a look at very closely.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.
Deputy Gabriel.

1870

Deputy Gabriel: Thank you, ma'am.

I would like to ask the candidates that if they are successful to P&R, at the end of the term what success looks like for them, for P&R and for Guernsey as a whole.

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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

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Deputy St Pier: It is a very good question. Success, personally, is irrelevant. Success in relation to the Committee and Guernsey should be aligned. For me, it would be the delivery of the super priorities which will have been identified in the Policy & Resources plan approved by this Assembly, including, of course, the adoption of a clear fiscal sustainability plan from July. And, of course, most importantly, the delivery of house building, which is obviously an issue of concern to everyone in this Assembly.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Niles.

1885

Deputy Niles: I would have to agree with Deputy St Pier that our super priorities are laid in front of us and they are obviously what they say they are, that they are our priorities. But I cast my mind back to the election back in July last year, where my particular focus was on accountability and fiscal balance within our economy. For me, that is the most important decision for us to be able to make, to be able to deliver a sustainable fiscal policy for our community. We will not achieve that just purely through savings, we will do it through the introduction of a new and competitive tax regime.

1890

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Camp.

1895

Deputy Camp: Thank you.

I stand now, as I did really at the general election, that I think success for Guernsey looks like balancing future expectations alongside allowing economic growth, which is so important to everything that moves forward. I am doing so whilst encouraging sustainable public spending structures. We are at a point in our history where the past is done, it is buried, it is gone. We must look more with challenge and difficulty to the future and make sure that what we are delivering is cost effective but also that there are structures underpinning it to ensure it is sustainable going forwards.

1900

The Deputy Bailiff: Alderney Representative Snowdon.

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Alderney Representative Snowdon: Thank you very much and good luck to all of you standing. Just a simple question really: what is your view about Bailiwick relationships with Alderney and Sark?

Thank you very much.

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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Niles.

Deputy Niles: The Bailiwick is a community together and we are all integral to each other. I do not think that we should be focused on separating, we should be looking at working collegiately across the Bailiwick. I welcome the introduction of the new Commission to look at where we are today. I think 1948 was a long time ago, it is about time that we did reconstitute and re-understand our purpose together.

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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Camp.

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Deputy Camp: Thank you.

I think that the relationship going forward with Alderney can be one that is actually quite exciting in terms of Alderney is well-placed to drive innovation and actually be a very good testbed for those kind of things, almost a sandbox for the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

1925

We come to it with challenge, we are trying to balance the past, the contract is incredibly old and very outdated as a result but, nonetheless, resetting that relationship to have a more equal relationship moving forward can only benefit us all.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

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Deputy St Pier: Thank you, madam.

I am delighted that the Bailiwick Commission is finally up and running. I am also very comfortable that the Bailiwick Council, which already exists under the chairmanship of Deputy Falla, performs a very active role of keeping dialogue going between the three Islands. The relationship clearly is

1935 incredibly important, but there are some real issues and challenges which the Commission is well positioned to address.

Personally, I would like to see what emerges out of that is a coherent economic development strategy for the Bailiwick. It makes no sense to me that we should have an economic development strategy for Guernsey and Alderney is seeking to develop its own, given particularly the fiscal union between Alderney and Guernsey.

1940 There are some very real issues if we proceed with a consumption tax, particularly in relation to Sark, how we would ensure that that could operate effectively without creating our own version of the Northern Ireland problem on the border between us and Sark.

1945 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you.
Deputy Rochester.

Deputy Rochester: I would just like to ask each candidate how they intend to support the programme of reforms that have been set out recently in response to the MyGov report.

1950 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Camp.

Deputy Camp: Sorry, MyGov? Yes, so I have already had discussions with the Chief Executive around this because clearly what we need – the one thing that struck me in the report on this was about this idea that you can put structures in place and call it governance. Clearly that was the absence of governance. So I am actually already keen, and I will continue those conversations regardless of ensuring that real accountable governance is wrapped around future projects like MyGov, etc., so we do not end up with the same problems and we can start to demonstrate that Guernsey can deliver on its commitments, deliver on its promises, backed up by strong contracts and strong ways of doing business.

1960 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier.

Deputy St Pier: The role of the successful candidate in this election of P&R is very much to support the Chief Executive and enable him to do what he has identified as being necessary. There are a clear set of recommendations there, and it requires political support to enable that to happen, and indeed that is what has happened so far in that process since that report was published.

I would also like to see the Portfolio Board strengthened, and the recruitment of effectively external non-execs into that process I think is a clear requirement to apply the improved governance and learn the lessons that emerged from that process. It has been a real challenge so far. I know it has been a real challenge so far to identify suitable candidates, but for me that is a really critical part of applying the lessons from My Gov.

1970 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Niles.

1975 **Deputy Niles:** It is incredibly important for Government to be confident in the future to be able to take on whatever contracts and whatever objectives it needs to do, but it needs to be able to do that having lessons learned from things that have gone badly. So the reforms that are being introduced on the back of the review that has been carried out have to be encouraged, because the governance structures – when we set out upon something we cannot look back in the future and say that it was not established properly and therefore it failed. We must learn effectively and so I welcome the reforms that come from it.

1980 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Kazantseva-Miller.

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Deputy Kazantseva-Miller: Madam, during the Government Work Plan debate in January, Deputy Camp's successful amendments strengthened the requirements for supporting economic growth throughout the body of the Government Work Plan. Could the candidates outline how they plan to support that amendment and economic growth through their roles on P&R?

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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

Deputy St Pier: It is a key question. Clearly, the main mandate for economic development obviously sits with Deputy Kazantseva-Miller's Committee. Clearly, there is a requirement for P&R to support that Committee and, again, there has been some interesting dialogue that has taken place, particularly around workstream 3 and the identified needs from that Committee to help deliver, for example, the financial services strategy that Deputy Niles spoke about when he spoke.

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I think the primary role of P&R is, rather than seeking to take any independent line, to support the Committee *for* Economic Development in that role.

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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Niles.

Deputy Niles: I think that the Committee *for* Economic Development's mandate is key to this, but it also dovetails into P&R's mandate too. There is a differentiation between a consumption economy where we can actively drive to make the economy more efficient and more productive, and also the job of the Government to stimulate that economy too, through actions such as Leale's Yard and the enablement of housing in the future, if we want a sustainable economy.

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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Camp.

2010

Deputy Camp: Thank you.

It is probably worth me mentioning a few of the things that I am already working on because, as Deputy Niles has indicated, the two mandates are closely related at times and do butt up against each other. One is already looking at regulatory friction being removed. As somebody who comes from the finance industry of course I would say this, but there is plenty more business to be had if we can reset our relationship between Government, industry and with a regulator.

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Another piece of work I have already started looking at is how we can use inward and local investment in order to support our local economy. That is incredibly important to economic growth, and it is about Government putting its money where its mouth is and supporting its own economy in growth.

2020

Now obviously those things sit alongside other things as people already said, such as housing, which is so critical because it is very difficult to move forward when there is nobody –

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

2025

Deputy Camp: Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Dorrity.

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Deputy Dorrity: Thank you, ma'am.

A simple one. How would each of the candidates approach ensuring that immediate savings are made on Government expenditure?

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

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Deputy Niles.

2040 **Deputy Niles:** As Deputy Dorrity knows, we are under mandates to look across our relative Committees at a 1% cost saving, but we need to go further than that and I think that the President of HSC is already under resolution to come back to us to look at a broader structure of health and health delivery in the future, and how we can do that sustainably.

I think that we need to do this across our economy and we need to understand how we restructure to be able to make savings in the future and make us more efficient, not just take on costs relentlessly.

2045 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Camp.

Deputy Camp: Thank you.

2050 Savings and responsible, sustainable savings are important to me. Along with Deputy Sloan, I brought an amendment to this Assembly asking for budgets to be held at 2025 levels to really start the difficult conversation that needed to be had around the fact that savings need to be made.

Perhaps those savings are not immediate, but what we need to be doing is putting the protocols and the attitude in place today in order to really sink below the surface and work out what is needed, what is not, what is nice to have, etc., and make those difficult decisions moving forward.

2055 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier.

2060 **Deputy St Pier:** Clearly, the delivery of the 1% that the States is already committed to is and can only be a first step. The delivery of a sustainable healthcare system is absolutely critical, considering that that consumes nearly 50% of our entire budget. But that is not a quick and easy fix. It is going to require the remodelling of Health & Social Care, and that is going to require some difficult and challenging decisions for this Assembly on the recommendation of the Committee *for* Health & Social Care. P&R's role in that, I think, as I indicated when I spoke, is going to need to be to support Health & Social Care in that, and particularly to the extent that IT can help drive some of those opportunities.

2065 There are something like 130 IT projects at the moment within HSC alone, and notwithstanding the challenges around the electronic patient record, we have got to go a lot further and a lot faster, and that is a real challenge given the other issues around IT.

2070 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Collins. This is the last question before lunch.

Deputy Collins: Thank you.

2075 My question to the candidates, ma'am, is the Policy & Resources Government Work Plan was approved by the Assembly 110 days ago today. What actions have you done to further a key one, to shape and strengthen the focus on early years and families?

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

Deputy Camp.

2080 **Deputy Camp:** If we are only talking about early years, then none of my mandates particularly cover that, except of course EDDIAC. EDDIAC is looking at the delivery of sustainable and improved educational outcomes for children through governance structures that ensure there is accountability within the structure, and that is something I believe passionately in because early learning really does need to be supported by education from zero all the way through to adulthood.

2085 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier.

Deputy St Pier: It is a good question. What have I personally done? I think, like Deputy Camp, it is clearly not within my personal remit and personal portfolio responsibilities. Within the Policy & Resources Committee that sits with Deputy Burford as the lead in that area.

2090 What I can say is Policy & Resources have considered this issue as recently as yesterday when they were looking at the terms of reference for the Political Oversight Group and so on. I absolutely endorse that work which is building on the decision of the Government Work Plan. I am grateful for Deputy Collins reminding us it was 110 days ago.

2095 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Niles.

Deputy Niles: Thank you for your question.

2100 I think that in the delivery of sustainable economic growth and prosperity for the Island, we need to underscore and support early years and families for the future. What we need to do immediately is something that is not within my mandate but something that we have been working on intrinsically, is to ensure that those people, when they do grow up, will not have a structural deficit to deal with, that they will have a better education system in place, and that they will have connectivity that deals with them when they go to university and they live overseas.

2105 So all of the things that we do together today, every day, in this Assembly, help our future years and our families.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

That will be the point at which we will adjourn for lunch to reconvene at 2.30 for the second-half of the questions.

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*The Assembly adjourned at 12.29 p.m.
and resumed its sitting at 2.30 p.m.*

Welcome to Hon. Kim Wells, Father of the House, Victoria, Australia

The Deputy Bailiff: Could I start this afternoon by giving a very warm welcome to the Hon. Kim Wells, who is Father of the House in the State of Victoria in Australia. You are very welcome to Guernsey and to the States this afternoon. *(Applause)*

Election of a Member of the Policy & Resources Committee – Election continued

2115 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Right, Members, we have 24 minutes left of questions.
Deputy Ozanne.

Deputy Ozanne: Thank you, ma'am.

2120 Given the importance of communications in P&R's work, particularly in rebuilding trust with the electorate, what role do the candidates believe social media should have in communications, particularly in a world where social media is increasingly becoming found to spread false information, as we saw this weekend? I ask this to them individually and as a P&R group.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

2125 Deputy St Pier.

2130 **Deputy St Pier:** It is an excellent question, madam. I think, clearly as is suggested by the question, it is very important that both the Members of P&R and P&R collectively recognise the importance of social media as a means of communication and a means of communicating the correct information to the community.

Clearly, the relationship between P&R and the Comms Team is an important one, but I think we cannot simply rely on traditional media. Also, to the extent that there are myths, mistruths and misinformation being spread elsewhere on social media, it is incumbent on individual Members to jump in quite quickly and quite early to address that. Some Members are better at that than others, particularly Deputy Burford has an excellent record of not sitting around too long before making a comment, and that is a good example to follow.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Niles.

2140 **Deputy Niles:** It is an evolving thing. We live in a world that was not the same today that it was last year or five years before that. But that it is like governance of anything, I think that we need to be able to communicate effectively with our electorate and with our community through social media. It is not going away. But we need to have a governance structure that allows us to communicate on behalf of our mandate within P&R, or any other Committee for that matter, and also as individual Deputies. That is where the tension sometimes exists because, as we have discussed this morning, we are all slightly different regardless. So governance and a framework within Committees is probably the way that we are going to have to go.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Camp.

2150 **Deputy Camp:** Thank you.

I think that there is definitely a place for social media. I am a user of social media for communication purposes. I recognise in doing so that every platform is equally used to spread misinformation, including traditional media and of course talking and discussing. Word-of-mouth can equally spread misinformation.

So it is important that we exercise balance but equally we must recognise that those voices are there for a reason. We might not think that their point is valid, but there will be validity in there, and I think what we must do is listen more rather than prohibit.

2160 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Next question for the – yes, Deputy Humphreys.

Deputy Humphreys: Thank you, madam.

I would like to ask about the tension between the provision of key worker housing on the Island versus the availability of homes for local people. Key worker housing obviously is an issue for P&R as employer. I would like to understand how you think P&R should be addressing that tension to ensure that our local people feel appropriately catered for and represented.

A Member: Hear, hear.

2170 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Niles.

Deputy Niles: Thank you.

Great question. Housing is a priority for us, as we know. It is a priority for the Housing Committee as well. In relation to your specific question about key worker housing, we have to recognise that in our economy and our community, we do need people to be able to fill the roles and we need to be able to house them when they do come here.

In terms of the tension that exists between our own community and those key workers, we need a mandate from Housing to be able to deliver the solutions in the future. So I actually think that

2180 there probably should be further devolvement of some of the decision-making or some of the mandate in relation to that from P&R to Housing so that they have the complete mandate to deliver those solutions in the future.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Camp.

2185 **Deputy Camp:** I think quite simply that the tension has been created by a chronic undersupply into the market in general. So if you start to address supply, then you start to release the bottlenecks on both. After all, if there is plentiful supply of houses, then the tension cannot exist.

I do believe, like Deputy Niles, that the Housing Committee ought to have a greater mandate in order to deliver that, because I think those decisions need to be centrally focused and centrally delivered.
2190

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy St. Pier.

2195 **Deputy St Pier:** There is an inherent tension between Policy & Resources as employer and the Committee *for* Housing as the Committee responsible for housing policy, but clearly the responsibility for P&R is to ensure that there is housing for those workers, States' employees, that need to be employed in key worker housing.

I think the interaction with the relocation directive is important as well, and that one of the meetings I had on Monday with HR was to ensure that that is pushed along and will be coming to P&R probably in mid-June for some decisions that need to be made.
2200

But, personally, I would like to see some consideration to allowing access for local workers to key worker housing. Clearly reserving it only for those from off-Island I think is a major problem and actually is preventing locals taking up roles that they might otherwise wish and be able to do.

2205 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

Deputy Gollop: Two of the candidates, if not all three, mentioned the priority was delivery and not ideology. Have the candidates got innovative ideas on how, in terms of project management and property management resources, they can deliver and get more political involvement and control over what has been in some areas a dysfunctional public service.
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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Camp,

2215 **Deputy Camp:** Quite a tough big question to answer, I think. The answer is yes, but you have to start somewhere, and that is where we are. We are at the beginning of ensuring. It really comes down to those first principles when you are planning anything innovative or otherwise, to ensure that you know from the outset what it is you are trying to achieve, and you build those structures around it to ensure that you can get there effectively, recognising flexibility is needed.

But that is a big job. Do I think that other politicians across the States should be involved in that? Absolutely, a workload shared is a workload halved and all of that. So we should absolutely be calling on the skills of ourselves, but also those externally.
2220

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

2225 **Deputy St Pier:** Project management and property management, Deputy Gollop cited. I think they are clearly two different things. In terms of innovations, again, I will speak to what I said earlier. In project management, it is important that we do get appropriate external challenge and input into the Portfolio Management Board, and recognising, as I said earlier, that is proving a real issue to find the right people, but we should continue to progress that as an imperative.

2230 Property management is a different challenge. We have to recognise that there are real resource
constraints within our Property Team, but I think we also have to recognise as politicians that we
often do create additional work and delay in property projects because we often ask for additional
work to be done and a good example on that recently is in relation to the children's hub. P&R
2235 looking at a decision, they are asking for additional work and so on. Also when there is a need to
relocate offices some Committees would rather that did not happen and those sort of tensions do
create delays.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Niles.

2240 **Deputy Niles:** Projects per se is something that we need to think about. Deputy Rochester earlier
this morning asked a question around MyGov and what we have learned from that. I think that
when we talk about Civil Service dysfunction that was mentioned, when we are sitting on STSB,
when we look at projects coming through the pipeline, it is sometimes difficult to understand exactly
where they are, where the progression is, where the approvals are.

2245 I think that we need to – and I turn to my colleague next to me and think about KPIs and
milestones as to how we could augment AI to be able to understand where we are in the delivery
of any of our projects in the future.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

2250 Deputy Inder.

Deputy Inder: Thank you.

2255 One substantial piece of land that remains in the hands of Policy & Resources is Leale's Yard.
Which of the candidates would not advocate for transferring that to the Housing Committee and
why not?

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

2260 **Deputy St Pier:** I think it is a little too early to make the decision to transfer it to the Housing
Committee immediately, because you have to see it in the context of that whole much larger area
and undertaking that work to understand what can be done in the entire area and, more
importantly, how it can be built out and developed. It is a huge tract of land there and it is not
something that the States is going to be able to – or the Committee *for* Housing is going to be able
to do on its own. It will require partnerships with private sector and so on.

2265 I am not averse to the idea but I think it is a little bit premature and it does need to be done in
context with the adjacent sites.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Niles.

2270 **Deputy Niles:** I reflect on earlier comments that I made in relation to the devolvement of
mandates to Housing to deliver housing for the Island. It is an absolute priority for us, but we need
to recognise that Leale's Yard is a combination of infrastructure projects and housing projects, and
we need to understand what the overall outcomes and project looks like to be able to deliver that.

2275 So it is a complex equation, but as soon as possible, when we understand exactly what that
housing looks like, then I would advocate for a devolvement of that mandate housing.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Camp.

Deputy Camp: Thank you.

2280 Yes, my understanding is that Leale's Yard and the surrounding area is intended as a multi-use
site. So transferring all that to Housing may have different outcomes to the ones that are sought.

2285 What I do think ought to happen is that when those discussions are being had about the use of those sites and the carving up of it, etc., housing needs to have a stronger voice around that table, because clearly whatever the uses we have got down here, I think we as politicians recognise housing as a number one priority. So therefore Housing should take that number one priority in those discussions.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Leadbeater.

2290 **Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Bailiff.

P&R is an extremely busy Committee with many different strands and a multitude of subgroups and other responsibilities such as link work with Principal Committees. How can the candidates give us reassurance that they have the capacity to be able to commit the amount of time and effort required as a member of the Policy & Resources Committee?

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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Niles.

2300 **Deputy Niles:** Excellent question, of which I do not have a complete answer for. If I were to be elected on to Policy & Resources, then the first meeting that we would have is an understanding of exactly what the mandate for myself and others looks like. Because I am sure that the mandate in the future will not look the same as it is with the relative people that are sat on it today. But what I will say is that whatever our responsibilities and our commitments within that mandate are, we need to fulfil them. So our capacity is not infinite, but it must oversee all the responsibilities that we have.

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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Camp.

2310 **Deputy Camp:** When I came into the States, I purposely axed all of my other commitments in order to put my full-time weight behind this role. I am very used to serving on many different areas in terms of complexity, information being received, and have thrown myself into all of those in every circumstance it has happened.

2315 Clearly, as Deputy Niles has explained, at this point there is no confirmation on what that personal mandate would look like within P&R, but I have certainly got the capacity and I hope I would have demonstrated it through the number of Committees and Sub-Committees that I am actively involved in today.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

2320 **Deputy St Pier:** Madam, this is obviously a question which is a little easier for me to answer than the other two candidates because clearly, as I spoke earlier, I have discharged the role for the last nine months and therefore I know what the role involves, the capacity that is required and I have been able to discharge it, including through the recent period.

2325 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you.
Deputy Montague.

Deputy Montague: Thank you very much.

2330 I would like to ask a very specific but simple question. To what extent – that is to what extent – can Guernsey get itself out of its financial problems by cutting costs alone? To what extent?

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Camp.

2335 **Deputy Camp:** In simple terms it cannot, and I have never advocated for that as the be-all-and-end-all answer. The answer is a combination of factors. What you have to do is ensure that what we are looking to do moving forward is sustainable. That includes a level of savings, optimisation of public funds, focus on economic growth and then all the other things that come in between. Savings is not a 100% solution.

2340 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier.

Deputy St Pier: To what extent? To a relatively small extent.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Niles.

2345 **Deputy Niles:** I would have to agree that if we understand that there is a structural deficit of some £80 million then if we were to start cutting costs of perhaps 10% of health, perhaps it would be a start but it would not get us there. So I would not think that we can solve our problems by cutting costs, no.

2350 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Oswald.

Deputy Oswald: Thank you, ma'am.

2355 How do the candidates feel that they could expand upon and indeed develop further the vital role of link member between P&R and the various States' Committees of which they may undoubtedly have a favoured option to work with?

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

2360 **Deputy St Pier:** Well, if re-elected, I would obviously wish to very much continue with my link role with both the Committees that I mentioned earlier, namely Home and the Committee *for* Health & Social Care.

2365 In terms of expanding and developing that role, I think there is great merit in the liaison having some presence in those Committee meetings from time to time. That is something that I have done with the Committee *for* Health & Social Care. I have not yet had the opportunity with Home Affairs, but there are specific issues on their agenda which I think would make sense for the link individual to at least be present and to listen to the issues that are being discussed; so that would be how I would wish to develop and extend it.

2370 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Niles.

2375 **Deputy Niles:** If we were to look at ourselves as a company, communications across Committees is not as effective as it could be. I would hope, without stepping all over Deputy Falla's feet, that I perhaps would be able to take a link role with Economic Development, understand what levers we are able to utilise to ensure that we can move that mandate effectively on together with P&R.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Camp.

2380 **Deputy Camp:** Not having a lot of experience of or visibility of link Members at this time, what I would say is where it has been really handy is where there is a particular cross-Committee mandate area and the link Members have always been available. But I think that the way to do that link membership is to have those discussions with those Committee Presidents, the Committees themselves, and work out.

2385 Because the one thing that P&R must not do is conversely overstep its remit and essentially sit in those Committees and take over. So there is a balance. It is as long as a piece of string, as much as is reasonable and is wanted from the Committee.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Blin.

2390 **Deputy Blin:** Thank you, ma'am.

I would like to ask the candidates, how important do they believe it is to have a long-term political understanding and continuity? How important is that to be an effective member on P&R at the present time, particularly with the amount of pieces of work such as the tax reform?

I would like to know personally on their support and how strong it is on the Guernsey Development Agency in that respect?

2395

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Niles.

2400 **Deputy Niles:** I would like to talk about the long-term understanding, politically and otherwise, in relevance to P&R. It is something that has been on my mind that when we have looked at the spread of the responsibilities across P&R and the people that are involved in it, and have been for some time perhaps, that you could say that there is a concentration risk or a key man risk that I think that we would want to derisk within any Committee for that matter, but P&R perhaps specifically. So in acting like a corporation, if you had to make any changes in the future you would not necessarily be reliant upon a single person's knowledge or long-standing commitment within the Government, but you would have the corporate memory within that Committee to be able to achieve the responsibilities effectively.

2405

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Camp.

2410 **Deputy Camp:** Long-term political understanding feels how I was raised, when other kids were perhaps watching Barney, the purple dinosaur, I was definitely tuned in to Guernsey politics; it is inescapable in my family.

2415 Clearly through the later work I have done through industry, I have directly engaged with politics around various complex areas that impact, particularly the financial services area. In terms of your question on the GDA, I will be honest, I need more information. There are some elements that do not feel like Guernsey to me, some elements that feel good. I think I need to understand more myself about what that is and how we deliver it over the long term.

At the moment I do not think it is fair to say that I outright support it, but I do not think it is fair to say I outright do not support it.

2420

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

2425 **Deputy St Pier:** In a comment in the Brexit referendum, Michael Gove said we are all sick of experts. But the fact is, is that experience in any role does matter. So the long-term political understanding and continuity is important. Indeed, I think the last States did suffer from some inexperience. Just echoing Deputy Burford's advice to Deputy Rylatt about politics did not begin on 1st July 2025.

Actually, as a result of that, I think significant time can be lost as those without experience do gain that experience. I think long-term political understanding continuity is a very important factor.

2430

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Burford.

This is the last question.

Deputy Burford: Thank you.

2435 I am pleased I got in before my 15-minute limit and did not have to hope for the 20 minute one.
On the front page of the *Press* today it is reported that there is going to be a significant revenue surplus showing in the 2025 accounts. Could the candidates please tell me how this news affects their view of the urgency or the need for tax reform generally?

Thank you.

2440

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Camp.

Deputy Camp: I think clearly there is an expectation that any time that the States performs better than it thinks, then there has to be a relook at some of those longer-term assumptions.
2445 Having said that, the two are not fundamentally linked in that way. One good year does not necessarily help you to forecast forward and take all your assumptions to understand how you will perform in the future. I think you can accept a windfall when you have revenue surplus but you should not then use that as a direct equator for the deficit being wrong or needing to be thrown out of the window or similar.

2450

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

Deputy St Pier: The real challenge for everyone dealing with this issue is that of course an accounting surplus or profit is not the same as our underlying structural position, and the surplus for 2025 is driven very much by a series of one-offs, including some unexpected revenue receipts, which will not be repeated, and indeed some investment returns.

2455 Understanding the scale of our structural deficit, in other words the need to meet our future capital expenditure and how we are going to fund that and to what extent some of that can be funded by the use of our investment reserves if there is a commercial return available, is an important factor. Fundamentally we still cannot get away from the fact that with our current tax structure and faced with current demands on public services, there is an issue and it does need to be addressed.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Niles.

2465

Deputy Niles: We need to take responsibility for our own future and understand exactly what the equation is that we are trying to solve. If we have come to the conclusion that we have a structural deficit, and I think it is unequivocal that we do, then we need to plan for that and we cannot rely upon hopes and prayers to have one-off events or returns from investments that will solve it for us. We cannot even rely upon Pillar Two equations that happen exogenous to Guernsey. We must take ownership of our own fiscal tax responsibility here and so I do not think it changes the equation at all.

2470 I think it is good that we are able, from time to time, to replenish our reserves, but that does not affect the underlying structural deficit.

2475

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

That brings us to the end of our questions. Before we go to the voting, can I just welcome a States Member from Alderney, Mr Kevin Gentle, who is sitting in the public gallery, in the normal way. Welcome. (*Applause*)

2480 Members, you should have your voting slips with you. If anybody does not have one, please indicate now. You need to write, as Deputy de Sausmarez described, on the left-hand box your name and in the right-hand box the candidate whom you wish to support. Please use nice clear handwriting.

2485 In relation to Deputy Kazantseva-Miller's question, one of the members of the States' Greffier team – Members, I am still talking. I hope you will find this helpful. There will be a process of ensuring that the names and votes are ratified by the States' Greffier as he goes through the

counting process. So if anybody was concerned about errant voting, I have no doubt that will be picked up very quickly. Is that all the voting slips? If those are all the slips collected in, I will ask His Majesty's Sheriff to go, with the assistance of one of the States' Greffier team, and count.

2490 Rather than sitting and staring across at one another, I suggest that we move on with business, since it is almost four minutes to three and we have not started any of the main business of the States yet.

STATEMENTS

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

General Update Statement – Statement by the President of the Committee *for* Health & Social Care

The Deputy Bailiff: I will ask the President of Health & Social Care to give his speech.

2495

Deputy Oswald: Madam, fellow Members, this is the second update that I am privileged to present on behalf of the Committee *for* Health & Social Care.

2500

Since my first update, much has happened. We are pleased to welcome Ed Freestone and Mike Read as valued non-voting members. These appointments were made after a highly competitive process, bringing valuable knowledge and experience to our Committee. Members will know my view that we should use all talents available to the Committee to enable us to tackle our significant workload.

2505

Ed Freestone has taken on the delegated role of Alderney Liaison, and has already made his first exploratory visit. Mike Read has joined the Complaints and Learning Working Group, utilising his experience from CareWatch. This working group is comprised of political, medical, social care, lived experience and subject matter experts who were selected from numerous expressions of interest, for which the Committee is grateful. Members will be aware of the publicity campaign which has been launched as the listening exercises commence.

2510

An end-to-end review of the current joint HSC and MSG complaints process is also underway. The working group will deliver recommendations to the Committee in Q4 2026. Some Members of the Assembly availed themselves of an update recently, and I am grateful to Deputy Rochester for leading this work.

2515

The work of our Committee is significant and its remit is wide, with a significant role to play in delivering two of the Government Work Plan's areas of focus on early years and families and sustainable wellbeing.

The Children and Young People's Plan is being updated and the Committee will bring forward updated legislation to support privately fostered children with a policy letter before the end of 2026, following a period of community consultation. We also plan to modernise our Adoption Law.

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The Committee has a major role to play in the delivery of the sustainable wellbeing area of focus. Three outcomes have been identified for the States: to deliver an improved future model for the delivery and funding of long-term care as set out in the Supported Living and Ageing Well Strategy; to agree a plan for a sustainable health and care model; to encourage increased prevention and early intervention.

2525

Of these, the SLAWS workstream is the most advanced, and States' Members received a briefing on this today in the lunch break. Our colleagues on ESS will shortly be presenting the legislation to implement the measures agreed by the previous Assembly to stabilise the private care home market, with the support of members of the Committee *for* Health & Social Care.

The States also directed the Policy & Resources Committee, as co-ordinator of SLAWS, to work in conjunction with ESS and HSC to bring proposals for a new long-term care model to address the

2530 fact that the current long-term care insurance scheme and care model will remain unsustainable in the medium to longer term. The Committee looks forward to playing its role in delivering on this commitment.

The second most developed workstream relates to health and care regulation. A policy letter was agreed by the Assembly in 2019, but work was inevitably slowed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
2535 The Committee has prioritised this work for this political term and we will engage with key stakeholders before bringing proposals for health and care regulation back to the Assembly during 2027.

The 'big ticket' item is the work to agree a plan for a sustainable health and care model. We are required to bring this plan back to the States by the end of this political term. However, the
2540 resolution by this Assembly to achieve real savings of 1% per annum cumulative means that some issues of possible contention will need to be brought back earlier. Secondary healthcare, tertiary care provided in the UK, the provision of care for those with complex needs, amongst many other issues, does not come cheap.

I detect no wish to cut or withdraw services, so there are blunt questions to be asked. Who
2545 should pay? How much should the user contribute and how? Let me be absolutely clear, we have no intention of returning to the days before the secondary healthcare contract was signed, where service users or their relatives could be subject to financial privation and hardship to pay for essential medical services. But some realistic thinking is required here, and there will be difficult decisions for this Assembly to approve.

In addition to the above, we have separate Committee priorities, ranging from a Mental Health
2550 and Wellbeing Strategy to the very important output from the Misuse of Drugs Advisory Group (MDAG). Of particular note, will be the guidance from MDAG on the regulation of the prescription and supply of medicinal cannabis. We anticipate working closely with Home Affairs on these issues.

HSC has four major capital projects at delivery stage. I will start with the Children's Services Hub,
2555 which would consolidate the delivery of children's services at the Raymond Falla House site. The inadequacies of the current buildings have been explored in previous answers to both written and verbal questions in the States. A policy letter will be brought back to the Assembly by the end of this year.

Following the successful upgrade to the software for Child Health and Children's Services in
2560 August 2025, I am pleased to report that the new electronic patient record software for Acute, Mental Health, Community Services and Adult Learning Disabilities was successfully deployed in February 2026. This will bring increased functionality right across the health and social care area. Improvements have already been seen in areas where digital referral forms have improved efficiency and patient safety.

Work to complete EPR phase 1 will finish by the end of Q3 this year and is projected to cost
2565 £22 million, which is within the £23.7 million of funding already allocated to this programme. Whilst EPR phase 1 has not been delivered to the original timeline and within the original budget, its deployment is a significant milestone in HSC's digital transformation.

Accordingly, phase 2 will build upon phase 1 to include the introduction of electronic prescribing
2570 and the digitalisation of the Critical Care Unit. While they remain a part of the expected deliverables, these cannot be fully completed within the remaining £1.7 million of budget. Following a review, recommendations will be made regarding the prioritisation and approach to delivery of phase 2. We will also consider how efficiencies and better health outcomes can be achieved from a broader Digital Health Strategy.

As President, I am now the nominated political representative on the Our Hospital Modernisation
2575 Programme Governance Board. I am reassured that strengthened independent oversight, one of the key improvements identified following the MyGov report, is being put in place. This will help ensure the level of scrutiny and accountability the community rightly expects.

In relation to OHM phase 1, it is an open secret that remedial works in the new Critical Care Unit
2580 to address defects are related, principally, to firestopping. I am pleased to say that, with the co-operation of the contractor, the remedial works on the Critical Care Unit are now close to

completion. However, during this process, further issues related to fire protection have been identified.

2585 This additional work relates to changes from the original Fire Strategy that are required to ensure full compliance with current fire safety regulations. As such, no responsibility for the need for this additional work attaches to the contractor. It is for the States of Guernsey to finance this additional work required. We intend for the existing contractor to undertake these additional works subject to funding.

2590 Unfortunately, this will result in increased costs for the project and additional delay to the opening of the units. We are not yet in a position to confirm the financial impact, but it is unlikely that the units will open before the end of 2026.

2595 In parallel, work on the outline business case for OHM phase 2A has been progressing. However, analysis from our external cost consultants, delivered to the Programme Governance Board within the last week, has given an early indication that phase 2A cannot be delivered within the funding previously agreed by the States.

2600 I am not yet able to provide specific figures as further work is required to explore these revised estimates and to fully understand the underlying cost drivers. What I can say is that the updated estimate is likely to be very significantly above the original budget. The Committee has had preliminary discussions on the implications of this major development. We will shortly meet to discuss the full impact and consequences of this latest information on the delivery of phase 2A. We will engage with the Policy & Resources Committee regarding next steps and we will keep Members informed.

2605 Two items of good news to finish on: La Vieille Plage, a purpose-built unit, which will accommodate 14 service users with physical and learning disabilities, is currently opening to service users. Each of the one-bedroom flats has facilities to promote independent living, with a communal kitchen and lounge area.

2610 Waiting lists for orthopaedics and gastroenterology have come down appreciably but are still beyond those wished for. Without the increased theatre capacity that phase 2 of the Hospital Modernisation Programme will provide or would provide, waiting lists in high demand/restricted provision areas are regrettably likely to be a feature of our healthcare model going forward.

I look forward to answering any questions that Members may have.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

2615 Before we start on questions, I think for the first time this year, if Members wish to take off their jackets to cool down a bit, because it is quite warm, please do.
Deputy Sloan.

Deputy Sloan: Thank you, madam.

2620 My question, obviously that is a strange and new definition of the word 'success', because I was not aware that the electronic patient record was actually split into two phases when it originally started. So the idea that it has successfully been implemented is curious.

2625 However, will the President commit, bearing in mind the Scrutiny Management Committee have actually written to the Health Committee on numerous occasions forewarning you of our wish to do a review on both the electronic patient records and the hospital modernisation, to full and expeditious co-operation with us so we can start those reviews that we have been asking for, from the next month, please?

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Oswald.

2630 **Deputy Oswald:** Thank you, madam; thank you, Deputy Sloan, for that answer.

The Deputy Bailiff: Question. *(Laughter)*

Deputy Oswald: Sorry. I wish it was an answer.

2635 In terms of the EPR, the original project for the EPR project was to replace a TrakCare electronic patient record, which is in place and which came to the end of its life in 2012. Thinking of the EPR project, it has been like a spine on which ribs can be attached, and the spine has been completed within budget and on time – not on time but late, but within the budget proposed.

2640 It was proposed that there would be extra ribs, including electronic prescribing and the digitisation of critical care, but that came later in the programme. We need extra funding for that.

I can agree with Deputy Sloan, though, and we have already discussed how when we come to the project review phase of EPR, and in due course the other two capital projects, we would wish to involve the Scrutiny Panel at an early stage.

2645 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you.
Deputy Vermeulen.

Deputy Vermeulen: Thank you, ma'am.

2650 In Jersey there is a hire increase going on at the moment, and I note that at their hospital, over the last three years, to save on costs they have reduced their reliance on agency nurses. Are you aware of this? And are you taking similar measures, perhaps, to how Jersey are operating?

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Oswald.

2655 **Deputy Oswald:** Thank you, Deputy Vermeulen.

I think your question predominantly relates to our looking at the role of agency nurses in employment in the local state service. This is not something new. We have been doing this long term and the actual requirement for agency staff has declined considerably and now reported that there are some areas which are actually free of agency staff, whereas previously this was not the case. There will always be a requirement for some agency staffing that applies in every division, but we will endeavour to keep that to a minimum and we continue to work towards that.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Cameron.

2665 **Deputy Cameron:** Thank you. ma'am; and I thank Deputy Oswald for his update.

Last term, HSC indicated that it supported expanding pharmacy services to include repeat prescribing and treatment of minor ailments. Given the continuing pressure on GP access and the costs to patients, can the President update the Assembly on what tangible progress has been made since then and when Islanders can realistically expect these reforms to be introduced?

2670 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Oswald.

2675 **Deputy Oswald:** I thank Deputy Cameron for his pertinent question. Indeed, the work is going on in the sustainable healthcare delivery model to actually establish a role of how we can expand services into community pharmacy. It is at an early phase of the project, but we have a timescale hopefully to bring back a policy letter or some such update regarding progress in this phase in the middle of next year.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Leadbeater.

2680 **Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Bailiff; and I thank Deputy Oswald for his statement.

2685 I note he talks of a piece of work that they wish to undertake in consultation with Home Affairs, which is looking at the diversion of prescription medicinal cannabis. Last term on HSC we identified that there was a big problem with over-prescribing of opioids and we also identified that

gabapentin, for example, was getting prescribed massively across the Island now at different veterinary practices for dogs and other animals.

2690 Would he agree with me that the over-prescribing and the diversion of these opioids, as I mentioned, is probably far more of a cost financially and societally to the Island than the diversion of medicinal cannabis? Will he undertake to work with the Committee for Home Affairs on both issues?

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Oswald.

2695 **Deputy Oswald:** Madam, I thank Deputy Leadbeater for that question. I take your point, I cannot confirm whether I think that the diversion of opioids or gabapentin of the nature you describe is more financially harmful to the society than cannabis.

2700 I am pleased to say that work in this area is continuing. We now have the appointment for a specialist pharmacist dealing in misuse of drugs as part of the MDAG policy and a part of the continuing work in this role. That work is proceeding, and importantly at the moment in terms of regulation of cannabis prescription in medicinal clinics, a project is well underway and not far off delivery.

2705 In terms of veterinary supply of opioids, that is a very important point and I have been aware of this for a while. I am not actually sure how we would go about tackling that, but I can make appropriate inquiries. Again, I look forward to working with Home Affairs on this.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

Deputy St Pier: Thank you, madam.

2710 I shall project loudly in order that I can reach the microphone to be heard. Madam, could the President, if not now then within seven days to Members in writing, provide an estimate ignoring the capital costs of any additional work at OHM1, but the additional costs of what is now going to be at least a two-year delay in opening OHM1. I am thinking of the costs of standing up the 'Bring Into Use' team and then standing them down again, and the possibility that some of the capital equipment in there will already be out of date before it has even had a single day's use.

2715 Understanding the cost of that I think would be very useful, if Deputy Oswald could either provide that now or within seven days.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Oswald.

2720 **Deputy Oswald:** Thank you, Deputy St Pier, for those useful questions.

2725 Yes, we understand the implications of delay. I can answer the second point first about capital investment in equipment going out of use and out of time before they are even put into use, because myself and non-voting member Freestone raised a specific point at the Committee meeting the other day, and I am pleased to say that our healthcare advisers have already taken precautionary steps to ensure that that is not the case.

2730 In terms of the specific cost related to delay, we have two independent experts working with us. One on the quantum of the cost involved in delay itself and one on the actual reliability or otherwise of the contractor, who will be reporting into the amelioration programme, which will happen between the States of Guernsey and the HSC and the contractor when deciding what the final bill will be.

2735 I cannot comment on those further at this point. I can take advice as to whether we can release that data within the seven days that you require, but I am aware that some of this may still be *sub judice*.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Ozanne.

Deputy Ozanne: Thank you, ma'am.

2740 Given HSC's recent decision to cut costs by ending the administration fee of the free flu vaccine for those over 65, can I ask what modelling, if any, has been done to determine the increased demand for hospital beds over this winter? And what mitigating measures are being planned if we have, sadly, a real acute bed shortage this winter?

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Oswald.

2745

Deputy Oswald: Thank you, Deputy Ozanne, for that useful question.

Undoubtedly because of funding constraints, the free provision of flu vaccine through GP service has gone. I will point out that vaccines are still provided free of charge and without a prescription fee, but there is a delivery cost associated with this.

2750

The winter bed crisis as currently envisaged, in general speaking, is no longer actually seen to be a just a winter bed crisis, it is an all-year crisis. As such, modelling for provision of healthcare beds is an all-year-round function. I recognise the flu pandemic would bring extra demand for resources. If we manage to open phase 1 in the early part of next year, we will have increased critical care provision, which could expand actually quite significantly into the Post-Anaesthetic Care Unit. But in terms of provision in general medical beds, we have not got an emergency plan in, but nor do we need it because this is a continuous process. Virtually every week there is a bed crisis of some sort or other which has to be addressed.

2755

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Parkinson.

2760

Deputy Parkinson: Thank you, ma'am.

It has been suggested to me that some treatment procedures, which are currently exclusively provided by medical specialists, could be more economically provided by general medical practitioners. Is the President and his Committee looking at the boundary of where the medical specialist monopoly needs to be?

2765

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Oswald.

Deputy Oswald: Thank you, Deputy Parkinson.

2770

That is an interesting point. I am not aware that there are any barriers to the development of specialist care facilities within primary care within the capabilities of the practitioners that they have and the facilities they have, bearing in mind that these are commercial organisations who charge for the services that they provide.

2775

In terms of whether it is going to be more economic for the patient to have that service in primary care or in the hospital, then quite clearly, if they referred through the secondary care contract, there is no charge to the patient. Whereas in primary care, the charges can be quite high. So I think there is a nuanced balance there between cost to the taxpayer and cost to the individual.

But as part of the primary care review, which we hope to undertake in the second part of this term as part of a sustainable health and wellbeing process, those questions can be addressed.

2780

Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Le Brun.

Deputy Le Brun: There is strong evidence that housing insecurity, particularly where people feel unable to access housing they can afford to buy, drives chronic stress, anxiety and poor mental health and contributes to wider issues such as adverse childhood experiences and substance dependency. Is there a role that the Committee can proactively help to work with other Committees to get genuinely affordable step-up housing for working people eager to buy as a preventative health measure?

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2790

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Oswald.

Deputy Oswald: Thank you, Deputy Le Brun, for that question.

2795 He is right that housing is part of the derivative of poor healthcare outcomes. The actual provision of housing itself is clearly outside our remit, but we recognise the need for cross-Committee working and consider the provision of adequate housing as part of a preventive measurement.

2800 When you look at prevention, there are two types of prevention. There is indicative prevention done acutely which may produce savings short term and then there is return on investment. Of much more importance these days, or increasing importance, is the return on investment from major projects of the type you describe on long-term health of the community and clearly the provision of housing falls firmly into that.

There has to be investment at the beginning, which is outside our remit, but long-term benefit will actually be part of our sustainable health benefits.

2805 Thanks.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Bury.

Deputy Bury: Thank you, madam.

2810 In the annual prioritisation of legislative drafting policy letter that was published earlier today, it states that the draft Ordinance relating to the revised age limits for body piercing is now with the Committee. I was wondering if the President could advise if the Committee has seen it, has any idea of timeline of when it will be coming back to the States.

Thank you.

2815

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Oswald.

Deputy Oswald: Thank you, Deputy Bury.

2820 Yes, I believe that we have had a discussion at Committee level about this. There have been some issues regarding the legal framework for this. I cannot give you any details about this at the moment, but I can ask to provide you with the appropriate answer within the time limit allowed.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Dorrity.

2825 **Deputy Dorrity:** Thank you, madam.

2830 Deputy Oswald and I have spoken previously about the possibility of increasing the GP visit subsidy currently set at £12 per GP visit. We discussed the matter and I suggested removing the subsidy from those covered by multinational health insurers, to use the savings to increase the subsidy for those not in receipt of such cover, as the States is effectively subsidising these multinational insurers. I just wanted to ask Deputy Oswald whether he had had a chance to take a look at that.

Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Oswald.

2835

Deputy Oswald: Thank you, Deputy Dorrity.

2840 We have had discussions about this at a preliminary level because the whole review of general practice in terms of our timeline is going to come in the second half of this political term after particularly we have had a look at community care of pharmacies and then rolling out of the pharmacy projects.

As you are aware, the £12 grant has been stuck at that level since the 1990s. In terms of actual financial recompense, if we were to stop it now and bring that £12 grant back into general revenue, it could be expended appropriately elsewhere, the actual amount of money that we would get from that after the bureaucratic process is involved is remarkably small.

2845 This came up during the initial primary care review, which I participated during the last term, when we felt there was a nice bounty there which we could use to great benefit. But unfortunately, the reality is there is not a lot of money in it. So even if we were to do as you say now, and particularly if it only applied to those with insurance, there would not be very much to distribute.

Thank you.

2850

The Deputy Bailiff: Alderney Representative Snowdon.

Alderney Representative Snowdon: Thank you very much.

2855 I was just going to say thank you for the update a little bit about working with Alderney. Could you just confirm that HSC and the Alderney Care Board are working hopefully quite productively and next steps for Alderney Care and the Bailiwick?

Thank you.

2860

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Oswald.

Deputy Oswald: Thank you, Deputy Snowdon.

As you are aware, my colleague, non-voting member Freestone, has been up to Alderney. He spent a very full day, and we are very grateful for the help and support that Alderney provided to him on his visit. That will not be the first visit he makes.

2865 He has brought a discussion document back to the Committee. It will form the basis of a paper where we can review his findings in association with what the proposals of the Alderney Care Board are. Alderney has been an issue, as you are aware, for some considerable time. There is no simple answer, but we are happy to work with Alderney to try and produce that.

2870

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Camp.

Deputy Camp: I have heard concerns from those connected to the HSC children's care sector, saying they are working in impossible situations in terms of competence and resource for the risk faced daily. Can HSC confirm whether current staffing levels versus required staffing levels in vulnerable childcare services, including competencies, are deemed sufficient to ensure satisfactory safeguarding for both children and staff?

2875

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Oswald.

Deputy Oswald: Thank you.

2880 We recently had a presentation from the Deputy of Children's Services and there is no doubt at all that children's services are under stress. We have not identified an area of major risk we need to be concerned about at the moment, but we have asked the Deputy of Children's Services to come back to the Committee with essentially a wish list of what she requires to enable her to deliver her services within the limits we expect. That is not to say that we have identified a worrisome deficiency at the present time, but clearly there are markers of concern which you have illustrated.

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Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Gollop.

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Deputy Gollop: I thank Deputy Oswald and the Committee for their Statement but I have been a bit worried since the start of this term that they have very much expressed a commitment to

2895 looking at a 1% reduction through charges or relooking at services and how they could be paid for in secondary, tertiary and other areas. Would the President assure me, on behalf of himself and the Committee, that they will go out to wide consultation with professionals but also consumers and stakeholders and the wider public before they embark on what could be significant cost changes to either the customer or all the medical professions?

2900 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Oswald.

Deputy Oswald: Thank you, Deputy Gollop.

2905 This particular process is not going to be a simple short-term process. It is going to be over the whole of this political term, probably extending into the next political term. So any changes decided by the States, as we are seeing with SLAWS, may carry on into the next political term. Undoubtedly, the work has started. It is a massive piece of work, as you probably envisage, where you have got to try and give answers to problems which are facing every first world health economy at this particular time as to how we match increasing demand and increasing demographic issues with reducing tax burden.

2910 So at the end of the day, as I said in my speech, we have to work out who pays how much and for what. This will doubtlessly go to widespread discussion with interested parties. But I have pointed out that we are under States' resolution to drop by 1% per annum cumulative. This year we think we will achieve that target. Next year, to achieve that target, we are probably going to have to bring something back to the States, which is probably the start of this whole process of looking at the way we fund healthcare services.

2915 Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Leadbeater, then Deputy St Pier, and then we will finish questions.

2920 **Deputy Leadbeater:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Bailiff.

In his update statement, Deputy Oswald told us that, unfortunately, no longer can phase 2A be delivered within the original £120 million cost envelope for that project. Can he tell us, including any optimism, bias and contingency, what the latest cost estimate for phase 2A is?

2925 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Oswald.

Deputy Oswald: Thank you, Deputy Leadbeater, for an obvious expected question to which I am not going to give you a specific figure.

2930 I can tell you what the drivers are for this, and then you can try and make your own calculations to what the figure might be. The drivers were inflation – two extraneous drivers. The first is inflation, which has been estimated on the basis of the start of project was 2023 to an estimated delivery time of 2030 as accounting for 55% of the extra costs. The second extraneous driver is the cost of building locally. The external cost assessors that we have just been involved with have experience of developing major projects on Island, and they know exactly what the cost of building is here. Everybody knows how much building costs and how much the rises have been, and this adds probably another quarter of the expected rise. These are extraneous factors outside of our control.

2935 They are still being worked on. One can argue that at the moment the figures we have been given based on a phase 2A RIBA stage. To get a precise figure we would have to go to RIBA 3. We are having discussions at this particular moment with the Policy & Resources Committee and the Strategic Authority as to whether we should do this or not, or whether that is possibly not a good use of money.

2940 Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy St Pier, final question.

2945 **Deputy St Pier:** Madam, Deputy Oswald referred in his statement to the Misuse of Drugs Advisory Group and medicinal cannabis. If he agrees with me that we have managed to create a quite unsatisfactory regime around medicinal cannabis, can he provide any indication of the time frame by which we will see some reforms of that particular regime?

2950 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Oswald.

Deputy Oswald: Yes, in the Misuse of Drug Strategy Advisory Group, they were directed in the last term to come back with an implementation plan to actually start work on this. The arrival of a new pharmacist who is actually devoted to that has clearly contributed to that effort. I am told that a policy will come back to the Committee for further developments in the near future.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you very much, Deputy Oswald.

**Election of a Member of the Policy & Resources Committee –
Deputy Andrew Niles elected**

2960 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Before I turn to the next Statement, I have the results of the election for the member of Policy & Resources Committee. There were 40 eligible voting Members. Deputy Camp received 5 votes, Deputy Niles received 23 votes, Deputy St Pier received 11 votes. There was one spoilt paper. I therefore declare that Deputy Niles is the new member for the Policy & Resources Committee. *(Applause)*

COMMITTEE FOR HOUSING

**General Update Statement –
Statement by the President of the Committee for Housing**

2965 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Williams.

Deputy Williams: Thank you very much, madam.
Good afternoon, everybody. I am very pleased to be bringing this update to the Assembly today.
2970 When we came together as the new Committee for Housing last July, we knew that we would be mostly assessed by our ability to deliver new homes and increase the rate of home building. This is why we have been focusing the Committee priorities and resources on delivery.

2975 This Assembly approved the Major Projects Portfolio earlier this year, and as part of that agreed that the next phase of the Affordable Housing Development Programme could progress to the pipeline stage. Officers are already working on bringing together the necessary plans and documentation in order that we can ask this Assembly to unlock funding for us to get to work. Very importantly we want to ensure that the level of taxpayer funding is minimised and that the housing delivery programme remains affordable and value for money for the taxpayer is maximised.

2980 There is a lot of public interest about larger sites for affordable housing, such as Leale's Yard and other sites on the Braye du Valle. These large sites have the potential to transform housing on the Island, but it will take many years for these to come to fruition, and this is currently being led by P&R through the Political Oversight Group. However, the pain is being felt now. Just yesterday I was due to take part, but due to an IT glitch – not at our end – it did not happen, but with a Teams call with young graduates, who would have been sharing their hopes and their concerns about life in the Island after education. They cannot wait for certainty. For these reasons the Committee feels it

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is vitally important that we progress a full pipeline of developments which differ in their nature and in how they will be delivered, and this will be encapsulated in our delivery plan.

2990 One thing that is often overlooked is how many smaller pieces of potentially developable land
are in States' ownership. I am not talking about large estates, I am talking about maybe four terraced
houses, or a small block of flats here and there. That does not sound very exciting or
groundbreaking. However, when taken cumulatively, dozens of homes can be produced as new
States' housing, and that is just from the sites already identified. These are homes that can be
delivered in a way that does not involve making sweeping changes to the landscape, that can be
delivered without the States buying more land, that maximise the use of sometimes neglected or
2995 underutilised land or properties. We have identified quite a few suitable sites, and have very recently
written to the Policy & Resources Committee about these sites, seeking their support, which I hope
will be forthcoming.

3000 We will announce more about how we intend to bring these sites forward in due course. But a
great advantage of looking at these smaller pieces of land is that it gives us the chance to work with
smaller developers and construction companies around the Island.

3005 So often the development of affordable housing sites are comparatively large projects, so
smaller companies have limited involvement. That is not to say there is something wrong with the
larger companies, it is just that we want to ensure we are engaging with as much of the industry as
we can. We hope that this new delivery channel is more accessible to all and, as a result, more of
the Island's construction sector capacity can be put towards housing development.

3010 Another delivery channel will be focused on those sites expected to be proposed for designation
as affordable housing under the IDP partial review due later this year. The Committee *for* Housing
has been engaging with the Development & Planning Authority for some time about these sites
and the precise mechanisms by which they will be delivered. We are putting in place plans so that
we can move swiftly, if and when this Assembly approves those plans.

3015 As things currently stand, there are hoped to be opportunities to bring forward up to seven sites
and over 200 new homes. The majority of these homes must be affordable housing, which means
social rented, partial ownership, specialised housing or States' employee accommodation.
Delivering these homes will require funding and the timelines involved are a key motivator for us
working to bring proposals to this Assembly to unlock funding for affordable housing development
as swiftly as we can.

3020 I have spoken a few times about different delivery methods, and I think that is one of the key
things this Committee wants to bring to the table. In order to accelerate the delivery of affordable
housing, we cannot be reliant solely on one method. We believe the States needs to take a far more
proactive role. To that end we will be looking to strengthen our in-house resource and ensure we
can be capable and informed clients to get homes built. By progressing more workstreams in
parallel, we believe we can make a serious difference by increasing the rate of development.

3025 In the near future we aim to work in partnership with developers through joint ventures or other
types of contractual agreements common elsewhere. This is not to say that the role of the Guernsey
Housing Association is diminished; their role in development is being supplemented not replaced.
They are a very valuable part of the affordable housing picture on the Island, and we will continue
to engage with them on sites like the former Tyres Yard and the Mallard, the combination of which
looks set to deliver 139 new homes.

3030 On that subject, you will have all seen that cliff stabilisation work has been completed at the
Tyres Yard site. We are in active discussion with the GHA about the commencement of construction
there, which I hope is imminent. You will have all seen that a detailed planning application has now
been submitted for the Mallard site, adding detail to the outline permission already granted.

3035 So far I have just spoken about affordable housing of the kind delivered by the States and
housing associations. But that is of course only one part of the picture. With current pressures being
what they are, the Committee also want to maximise the development of the private housing stock.
I am pleased to say we have been progressing on this in tandem, and have been actively engaging
directly with the developers and landowners of developable sites.

3040 We are keen to explore models through which we can deliver affordable housing through private market sites too as we cannot simply rely on the new IDP sites for delivery of homes. We believe that bringing mixed-tenure housing on private sites can be a win-win and are actively exploring contracting models for delivery.

3045 According to the last IDP monitoring report there was detailed or outline planning permissions granted for 769 potential homes that were not yet under construction. If I could wave a magic wand and convert all of these into completed homes, a sizeable chunk of our housing issues would be gone over night. However, we know that a large number of planning permissions simply never translate into completed homes. Each of them is an opportunity and the Committee *for* Housing does not want wasted opportunities.

3050 By talking to the developers about these sites, we have a clearer picture of the individual and shared challenges faced. Work has already commenced to try to address some of these issues, such as the cost of clearing contaminated soil from brownfield sites. Planning issues and delays have been highlighted with other applications, and we have been proactively engaging with Planning to address them. In other cases, we have been able to draw developers' attention to the recent changes in Open Market Part A Inscriptions legislation, which may provide the means to make their project viable and create dozens of new Local Market homes. These quiet steps all help to bring about progress.

3055 It will be very hard to quantify how this work has helped delivery, but I very much hope that over the coming quarters we start to see a healthy upward trend in the number of homes actively under construction, and a consequent uptick in the number of completed new homes in the years that will follow.

3060 A related piece of work we have engaged in is the Housing Site Availability Framework. This report, which was published in March this year, contains information about the ongoing progress on sites in public and private ownership across the Island. It is intended to be a tool through which the Committee and public at large can see and understand the progress that is being made on housing delivery. I am pleased to say this work was progressed in collaboration with the Guernsey Building Trades Employers Association.

3065 Madam, another area of focus for us has been homelessness,. Indeed we have Deputy Collins designated as our lead in this policy area. We have been engaging with a number of charities which are all in their own ways supporting those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. We recently assumed responsibility from the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security for grant funding for Action for Children, and we have met with their representatives to discuss their future plans.

3075 At Home in Guernsey have been working in collaboration with our officers to develop policy and strategy. You may have seen that they recently launched a notification form to try to obtain much needed additional information about people experiencing homelessness in the Island and what their needs are. Meanwhile we have been having ongoing discussion with Caritas about both their active project located at the Vale Douzaine and their future plans, which we very much hope to help in the delivery of.

3080 Work regarding first-time buyers is being championed by Deputy Humphreys. We are very keen to look at supply-based measures in due course; for instance, the creation of covenanted reduced price first-time buyer properties. There are examples of such schemes already and we believe that there could well be a role for this kind of housing to play, alongside other intermediate housing like partial ownership. However, that work will take time due to the need to develop new homes first. In the meantime, we were directed during the last Budget debate to report back to this Assembly on proposals for non-supply based measures. Work is ongoing in this area and has narrowed to look at three options, one which facilitates saving and two that aim to produce targeted reductions in the cost of purchasing or owning a home.

3085 Getting on the property ladder is a stressful thing and not only due to the difficulty of affording that first rung. Since the Committee has been established, we have had a steady stream of correspondence from individuals telling us about their frustrations with the house-buying process.

3090 Unexpected delays, survey woes and last minute breaks in the purchase chain; no-one would suggest that making the biggest financial purchase of your life should be completely stress free, but it seems that the current process is adding to that stress unnecessarily. I am pleased to say we have been engaging with industry about this issue and expect to be having workshops in the coming weeks to try to get to the root of these issues and whether anything can be done to resolve them.

3095 Another area we have been heavily focused on over the past six months is the rights and obligations of landlords and tenants. This work, which Deputy Dorrity has led on, was inherited from the former iteration of the Committee *for the Environment & Infrastructure*. I know, madam, that the President of the Policy & Resources Committee awaits it with bated breath. We are in a late stage of consultation on this work and we are keen to get it right because it is so important.

3100 Fundamentally, it is about creating a legal framework to govern residential renting. Setting clearer guidance on some very basic practices such as the requirement that a written tenancy agreement be put in place. I very much expect that this will be the next substantive policy letter that the Committee submits to assist both landlords and tenants.

3105 In summary, madam, the number one focus of the Committee is the delivery of new homes. So many of the issues we see – high rents, difficulty finding suitable housing and poor housing conditions – are driven by, or at least aggravated by, a lack of supply. It takes time to deliver this, but we are hopeful that we are sowing the seeds for a pipeline of development that will have a long-term and lasting effect. I am truly excited about the prospect of what we can deliver and I hope this Assembly is too.

3110 Those wanting more information about our plans will not have to wait long. The Committee is on track to publish our Committee Work Plan by the end of the quarter, as well as more detailed information about our delivery plans. I know the President of the Scrutiny Management Committee will be pleased to hear that these will contain KPIs and quantifiable targets.

3115 Thank you, madam.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you very much.
Deputy Van Katwyk.

3120 **Deputy Van Katwyk:** Thank you, madam; thank you, Deputy Williams, for the update and to your Committee for all the hard work.

3125 You mentioned Caritas and the active project currently underway at Vale Douzaine room. As I understand it, Vale Douzaine were the only ones to offer space, and I just wonder if you could give us a little bit more of an update on either how well that is going or any issues that have been found in the hopes that we can convince other Douzaines to follow the lead.

Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Williams.

3130 **Deputy Williams:** Thank you, madam; and thank you, Deputy Van Katwyk, for that question.

3135 I think it is a two-sided one with Caritas. It is good that it is being used, but we prefer it was not being used because it is unfortunate. They have had a number of people – I heard some latest stats, I think they had had about 60 nights sought use out of it. Not by 60 individuals; some by recurring individuals coming back. Undoubtedly there is a need for it. That is very basic in that it is a small bedroom.

3140 We are actually talking to Caritas and they have got a bid in for some potential properties; they do not know whether they are going to be successful. We have been identifying some land to assist them with that to site those modular units. If they are not successful with this bid they are going to transfer their attention to something else to purchase. They have some funds, we are looking to try to facilitate them to use those funds to generate some more temporary accommodation as well. There is undoubtedly a need for temporary accommodation, unfortunately.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Le Brun.

3145 **Deputy Le Brun:** The Committee has spoken about working with private developers to create new private housing. Developers naturally build what is most profitable, not necessarily what the people desperately wanting to buy a home can afford. What action can the Committee take this term to deliver lower-cost starter homes to buy?

3150 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Williams.

Deputy Williams: Thank you, madam; thank you, Deputy Le Brun.

3155 On the affordable housing sites that are designated or to be designated potentially – subject to a vote – through the IDP partial review, there will be a majority of affordable housing on those so we will be able to have a greater control and influence on affordable housing working with developers or landowners there, so that will be beneficial undoubtedly.

3160 On sites that are just tightly privately owned, we have obviously no control over the outcome of what is provided there in terms of the tenure. However, through Planning there is an influence on the mix of units because they are meant to reflect the housing needs of the Island. But there are developers talking to us on private sites where we can assist them in terms of our finance, which then means that we can get some sort of units out of it, some properties out of it, and help their cash flow to help unlock some of these sites.

We are actually looking to talk to some developers at the moment about some potential private sites where there is a win-win for both parties.

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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Cameron.

Deputy Cameron: Thank you, ma'am.

3170 After his previous Update Statement, Deputy Williams indicated that modular housing and a potential pilot project were being explored as a way of easing construction bottlenecks and accelerating delivery. Can he update Members on what progress has actually been made since then and whether any modular developments are now expected during this political term?

Thank you.

3175 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Williams.

Deputy Williams: Thank you, madam; and thank you, Deputy Cameron.

3180 The leading work has been done by SPU, the States Property Unit, working under P&R. We have had a real interest in it because we want to know all the facts and figures to do with it. So rather than us do the work as well as them, we are piggybacking off their knowledge.

They are still refining their costs. I actually only had a meeting yesterday with the lead officer at the SPU about that. He has assured me they are going through all the costings at the moment with a fine tooth comb, so we are expecting something in a few weeks' time.

3185 It is interestingly not quite as attractive as they thought. It is a good price from the factory, but once you have transported it with all the transportation costs and then you have set the site out, the costs do go up quite a lot and, bearing in mind, you cannot say it is going to have the longevity a blockwork house would have.

3190 The pros are not quite as good as you thought and maybe the cons are quite high compared, so they are not necessarily an easy win. So I am not sure. Certainly I think we will be looking to use it from a homelessness point of view to try and address some of the issues in the future.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Parkinson.

Deputy Parkinson: Thank you, ma'am.

3195 The UK government is in the process of phasing out leasehold tenures, especially for flats, in favour of a new commonhold tenure system. Has the Committee given any thought to the forms of tenure that are available to people in Guernsey?

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Williams.

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Deputy Williams: Thank you, madam; thank you, Deputy Parkinson.

3205 We have not addressed that one. To be honest, we have got so many issues that are hitting us that we are trying to focus on the delivery side, although we obviously inevitably got caught in trying to address some of the landlord and tenant matters as well because they are a top priority. So it is very difficult because inevitably, housing is a very broad remit, even though I know it has been narrowed down to the Housing Committee, but there is still a heck of a lot involved across the market. What we do not want to do is address 50 issues in a very small way, rather than not address the big issue, which is about supply.

3210 It is not an area that we focus our attention on. We are, though, trying to address some of the issues in the private renter sector through the landlord and tenant guidance, where we do find some issues, both for landlords and tenants. But no, the freehold/leasehold side of things we have not addressed.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Ozanne.

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Deputy Ozanne: Thank you, ma'am.

3220 What steps, if any, are the Committee considering to help would be first-time buyers to save for a deposit for a house whilst they are caught in a trap of increasingly unaffordable rental prices that have increased by 50% over the last five years. Are they looking at specific measures for that first time buyer?

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Williams.

Deputy Williams: Thank you, madam; and thank you, Deputy Ozanne.

3225 Yes, there is work ongoing. We were particularly given a remit from the November budget discussion with P&R and Housing, working towards some sort of more focused tax relief-type ideas. It is something particularly that Deputy Humphreys is involved in, leading on for the Housing Committee, looking at what we might work on, and Deputy Collins as well.

3230 Certainly, I think we have got a view that we would like to have some savings incentive scheme, like an ISA, identified at first-time buyers, incentivise people to save and then give some sort of tax relief or some sort of benefits. It gives younger people some hope and aspiration that you have not got a house overnight, but you are going to be saving towards one.

3235 We also have to be very careful that we do not just hype demand by suddenly giving somebody a lump sum of cash. They go out and it hypes the prices and that just affects everybody detrimentally. So we do have to be quite careful about intervention in the housing market. It is a small housing market and anything you do can upset it. But yes, it is being addressed at the moment and something will be coming forward very soon.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Matthews.

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Deputy Matthews: Thank you, ma'am.

I was pleased to hear that the President, along with Deputy Humphreys and Deputy Collins, are working on a workstream to help first-time buyers, in part prompted by amendments to the budget, which I had prompted myself with my amendment.

3245 The President, I am sure, will know that one of the options might be, for example, reduce Document Duty for first-time buyers. That was actually a feature of the old States' loan scheme that used to operate. I wonder if the President had a view on the options that might be available there.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Williams.

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Deputy Williams: Thank you, madam; thank you, Deputy Matthews.

It is still being refined, so I do not want to commit myself on anything there. There is still work ongoing. However, I personally do not think a soft home loan scheme from the States is a good idea because I think we would just hype demand. Also, it is a matter of is that something that we can afford to do anyway? But certainly, I think there could be Document Duty incentives; that is a possibility.

3255 It is a very expensive business purchasing a property, and when you look at the tax side of things as well, and obviously it is a limitation for people downsizing, because that is an issue in the Island. Once people look at moving down from a four-bed to a two-bed, and they look at all the tax involved as well, a lot of them just decide to stay put. So I think it is an area that we need to look at generally, anyway, in terms of how we ratchet up Document Duty and try to incentivise to move more in the market to something that is a more suitable size for everybody, whether that be first-time buyers or downsizers. But work ongoing and due to come out, possibly end of quarter two, I think.

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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Camp.

Deputy Camp: Thank you.

3270 I am hearing from Guernsey families who feel increasingly displaced by the current housing shortages and allocation priorities. Can the Committee please outline what it is doing to ensure fair access to Local Market housing for Guernsey residents and what plans are in place to increase supply and protect local people's housing prospects?

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Williams.

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Deputy Williams: Thank you, madam.

That is a full-ranging question, is it not? Principally, we are trying to do all the levers that we can to increase supply. Actually, as you noted in my speech, we are actively going to be getting involved in providing States' properties for the first time for 25 years. We have been reliant on the GHA. They are still developing, but we want to supplement it because we need more numbers. So we are going to increase supply, and that may be for rent and it could be for first-time buyer accommodation that we want to get involved in and trying to mix up the tenures on some of the housing estates; so pockets of land that are around that are in our ownership.

3280 We are generally looking at supply. We are principally focused on local residents. Inevitably there is the P&R responsibility and our own for States' employee accommodation, but ideally we want to try to, if we can, focus that on States-owned land ideally around the Princess Elizabeth Hospital (PEH) or wherever the relevant employer is. So, yes, our big focus is about local people and trying to generate more affordable housing and more greater supply.

3290 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Sloan.

Deputy Sloan: Thank you, ma'am.

3295 Thank you very much for your previous answer. You took the wind out of my sails. That would have been my first – sorry, for you, madam, but in reference to your last question, how do you plan to do that? Is it going to be covered in the delivery plan because when we had the scrutiny and we talk about the Housing mandate, actually the mandate was not very empowering?

So how do you propose that the States is going to get into building effectively new social housing and also properties for first time ownership? How are you going to do that?

3300 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Williams.

Deputy Williams: Thank you, madam; and thank you Deputy Sloan.

It is probably difficult to encapsulate in 90 seconds but, basically, we have got land scattered around. There are always issues with it. That is a principal issue as a starter, and then we will be talking to developers and contractors on how we open up those opportunities. There is going to be access to funding and potentially borrowing to support that housing.

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It has got a rental stream and an asset value, so we are actually going to become a more proactive developer of homes because that is the only way we feel we can supplement the market as well as working with the private sector in terms of partnership arrangements on private sector sites that need unlocking. So, overall, we are trying to address a raft of issues but principally become a lot more proactive as a housing provider.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Gollop.

3315 **Deputy Gollop:** The problem with housing is it is spread across several Committees even now, and I would like to ask the President of Housing how is he going to work with the DPA, who have got a planning update soon, in terms of ensuring that sites that already have been given development permission by planning actually get built?

3320 Is Housing fully aware of the reasons why they are not being built if they have already got permission, and is there a workstream to address that?

The Deputy Bailiff: That sounded like three questions to me (*Laughter*) but, Deputy Williams, do try your best to answer.

3325 **Deputy Williams:** Thank you, madam.

As is often the case with Deputy Gollop, there are several questions in there. Over the last year, staff have been involved in about 22 meetings with developers and landowners of sites that are over five units plus that have not been developed. We have been meeting with those people, and a number of them have progressed a bit because there have been obstacles that different people thought that something else was holding it up and we have been able to unlock things.

3330 We have not got a magic wand to say, 'There you go. There is the money. Get it out there'. Some of those types are held up for all sorts of different reasons. Sometimes it is planning issues that can be resolved. So, yes, we have been talking quite a lot with the DPA and we have been talking with developers.

3335 We do not have a stick to work with developers other than if they do not get on site and obviously they do not enact a planning approval within three years, the planning permission drops away. With the Island Development Plan partial review, there is a proposal that, if there is not progress on some of those sites, they do fall away and get de-zoned, and that is going to be some of the leverage that is going to be used to try to incentivise people to get on and get things developed.

3340 So we are working more closely with the DPA about how we pressurise landowners and developers to develop their sites.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Le Brun.

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Deputy Le Brun: The Committee is talking about engaging with working groups and focus groups made up of housing stakeholders such as architects, developers, builders and lenders; basically the supply chain. Can the Committee include the actual end users, the prospective buyers

3350 and specifically lower income first-time buyers in discussions who have a better idea of what people will want or will accept to help develop starter home ideas?

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Williams.

3355 **Deputy Williams:** Thank you, madam; and thank you, Deputy Le Brun.

Yes, certainly we could do that. It is always difficult to know when you invite people in as end-users in terms of how representative they are of the field or the market, but certainly it is an opportunity for us to try to do that. Whether we will get a collective view or somebody's individual view – I have my own personal views on that one – but, yes, it is an opportunity to ask the end users.

3360 I think generally we can guess because we have all been there, but certainly if we can find some useful mechanism to do it, then it is something we will try and address.

The Deputy Bailiff: Any more questions for Deputy Williams?

Deputy Gollop.

3365 **Deputy Gollop:** Many years ago it became apparent to me, when I sat on Housing, that there was official disdain for the old Guernsey values of building your own home as self-built properties. Hopefully, new ideas have come in. So my question is: will the Committee be looking at some of the exciting new ideas put forward by Deputy Laine and others about having a self-build model maybe on States' sites as the States have built up a landbank? Can people build their own properties there and maybe tiny homes over time?

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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Williams.

Deputy Williams: Thank you, madam; and thank you, Deputy Gollop.

3375 Again, it is tricky to do a complete answer in 90 seconds. I think there are pros and cons with self-build. I think generally, it sounds good but, in reality, it is bloody difficult to do. Excuse my French.

The Deputy Bailiff: Yes. *(Laughter)*

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Deputy Williams: It is very difficult to do.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

3385 **Deputy Williams:** So I would say pros and cons; it is going to be very challenging. I would try to identify it on a separate site rather than in a larger masterplan site because it might hold up other things. Certainly well worth looking at as a pilot and seeing whether it works, but I would like everyone to go in with their eyes open on how big a challenge it would be.

3390 Frankly, if you are talking about a self-build where people with the skills have only got weekends and evenings to build their homes, standards are way higher these days than 25 or 30 years ago in terms of energy efficiency and air tightness and so are the financial requirements of releasing money from the banks. So I do not think it is an easy one. It will not solve the problem.

3395 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Any more questions for Deputy Williams on behalf of the Housing Committee? Thank you very much, Deputy Williams.

**Resignation from the Committee for Employment & Social Security –
Personal Statement by Deputy Dorrity**

The Deputy Bailiff: I will turn to Deputy Dorrity who will be giving his resignation statement.

Deputy Dorrity: Thank you, madam.

3400 Madam, Members, it is with some regret that I announce my decision to resign from my position on the Committee for Employment & Social Security, but I have reached a point where I felt that the majority of decisions were being made with which I fundamentally disagreed but for which, as a member of the Committee, I would rightly be held accountable.

3405 I would like to begin by saying that I will miss serving on the Committee and dealing with the wide and varied matters under its remit. I will also miss meeting with colleagues and officers who work hard to ensure that a huge caseload is handled effectively and in a timely manner.

3410 When I joined the Committee, I did so because I wanted to help ensure that those Islanders who require support from the States were receiving the best assistance possible within the constraints of a limited budget. Over time, I became increasingly concerned about the long-term sustainability of Committee spending and the challenges involved in achieving even the 1% savings target approved by this Assembly without negatively impacting vulnerable members of the community.

3415 I found it difficult to see how meaningful reductions could be achieved without careful consideration of all areas of expenditure. This then prompted Deputy Collins and I to establish the ESS Savings Working Group, and we tasked ourselves with a detailed review of Committee spending commitments and funding arrangements.

3420 The tipping point that prompted my resignation relates to a recent funding decision. The Committee considered a request from an organisation seeking increased financial support. I want to stress that I believe this organisation does extremely valuable work within the community and the outcomes it achieves are commendable. However, I felt that approving a substantial increase in funding at this time was not the right course of action given the broader financial pressures facing the Island.

3425 I supported an option that would have maintained funding at broadly its existing level while others supported a significantly larger increase. Ultimately, the majority supported the higher level of funding and, while I respect that decision and the motivation behind it, it served to reinforce my view that the Committee was making decisions for which I could no longer, in good conscience, share collective responsibility.

3430 Many people have encouraged me to remain and continue arguing my position from within the Committee. However, I have concluded that I may be able to contribute more effectively outside of it and I hope my resignation may encourage broader reflection on the difficult financial decisions that lie ahead.

I want to make it clear that I believe that the remaining Members of the Committee are good and caring people who are genuinely committed to helping those in our community who need support. They take their responsibilities seriously and continue to work hard in challenging circumstances. However, I would caution them and indeed all Members of this Assembly.

3435 It is not enough simply to oppose new revenue-raising measures without proposing viable alternatives, and nor is it enough to vote through a savings amendment and behave as if that is the job done. The real work comes after the vote and requires that the most difficult and most likely unpopular decisions need to be taken.

Thank you.

3440

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you, Deputy Dorrity.

Questions for Oral Answer

STATES' ASSEMBLY & CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Public confidence

3445 **The Deputy Bailiff:** We have now reached Question Time.
Deputy Sloan, your question to the President of the States' Assembly & Constitution Committee.

Deputy Sloan: Thank you, madam.

3450 This might feel a bit unseemly, given the chronology of the orderings today, but rest assured there is nothing personal in this. Mine was the spoilt ballot and I did not agree with the process of this morning.

3455 But to ask the question, madam, to the President of the States' Assembly & Constitution Committee to ask the President of SACC whether, in considering Deputy St Pier's continued membership with the Committee during the current ongoing police investigation, the Committee considered issues of public confidence and the potential for the Assembly's constitutional governance processes to be brought into disrepute.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Hansmann Rouxel.

3460 **Deputy Hansmann Rouxel:** As reported in the media, who were present at the meeting, the Committee discussed the current situation regarding Deputy St Pier's membership of the Committee including considerations relating to public confidence. The Assembly's constitutional and governance process concluded that no further action was required at this time and any actual or perceived conflicts of interest would continue to be managed in accordance with the Rules and procedures applicable to all Members.

The Deputy Bailiff: A supplementary question from Deputy Sloan.

Deputy Sloan: Thank you, madam.

3470 The President's answer notably fails to confirm that the Committee considered the potential for the Assembly's constitutional processes to be brought into disrepute. Given that SACC's mandate expressly includes matters concerning propriety and conduct of States' Members and the practical functioning of the Assembly, and given that P&R publicly treated the matter as sufficiently serious to require Deputy St Pier to step aside and action that was effectively endorsed by the Assembly
3475 this morning, does the President not accept that attempting to reduce the issue nearly to procedural conflicts of accusal risks creating precisely the kind of reputational inconsistency capable of bringing SACC into disrepute?

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Hansmann Rouxel.

3480 **Deputy Hansmann Rouxel:** When looking at the subject, we had to look at it objectively and one of the things is perceived conflicts of interest and the perception that exists, and we believe that those can be held under the existing Rules. SACC is a very different Committee with a smaller mandate, and there are areas of the mandate which can continue to operate without any prejudice
3485 whatsoever.

The second part of that is openness and transparency with SACC being the only Committee that holds their meetings and the media are allowed to attend, as evidenced in the question itself. This provides a level of transparency that inoculates against the perception that creates a belief that there is something untoward happening.

3490

The Deputy Bailiff: Supplementary question, Deputy Ozanne.

Deputy Ozanne: Thank you, ma'am.

3495

The question touches on the issue of media reports, and I hope that my question is within bounds, but I am sure you will tell me if it is not. The media has reported that an individual in our Assembly was arrested without charge and I am wondering if that is normal for any member of the public and whether SACC have looked at that particular question because it seems to be –

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Ozanne, I cannot see that that does come out of the answer.

3500

Deputy Ozanne: It is the media piece. Apologies.

The Deputy Bailiff: Yes. Supplementary question from Deputy Sloan.

3505

Deputy Sloan: Thank you, madam.

Very briefly, yes, I was not talking about conflicts. It was the actual issue of the potential for SACC to be brought into disrepute.

My final supplementary is whether, given the proceedings of this morning, she will take that question back to the Committee and revisit it.

3510

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Hansmann Rouxel.

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Deputy Hansmann Rouxel: I believe in the concept of natural justice when we apply the rules fairly and proportionately, and we have to balance those against the public perception. One of the reasons why I am confident is what we have agreed is the Committee has looked at it in the round because it is under an open and transparent process and we could not be more transparent than having the media at our meetings.

The Deputy Bailiff: Any more supplementary questions? Thank you.

COMMITTEE FOR ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

3520

Scheduled bus service changes

The Deputy Bailiff: In that case, I will turn to the questions posed by Deputy Gollop to the President of the Committee for Environment & Infrastructure.

Deputy Gollop, your first question.

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Deputy Gollop: Thank you, Madam Presiding Officer.

My first question – and I thank the Committee for their answers – are the proposed contracted scheduled bus service changes. Improvements and cutbacks that may have been implemented this summer were shelved, but are they being reconsidered for an autumnal season reconsideration including better Beau Séjour service provision?

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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Gabriel.

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Deputy Gabriel: Thank you, ma'am; and I think Deputy Gollop for his question which, just like buses, arrive regularly and on time. *(Laughter)*.

The proposals to amend and improve the scheduled bus service remain ongoing. The public consultation exercise was well engaged with, which the Committee is extremely grateful for.

3540 The feedback provided has been extremely useful and the proposals were reviewed in light of the responses received. The Committee is due to receive revised proposals in the coming months before any changes are implemented.

The Deputy Bailiff: Is this a supplementary question, Deputy Gollop?

3545 **Deputy Gollop:** Yes. I thank Deputy Gabriel and will he insist that the proposals are fully published on the States' website and possibly the *Gazette Officielle* because it was a little bit confusing when the initial ones were done in January?

The Deputy Bailiff: I did not hear a question. Sorry, I was waiting for the question.

3550 **Deputy Gollop:** That he fully publishes the new proposals.

The Deputy Bailiff: Yes, Deputy Gabriel, if you heard the question, then you answer the question.

3555 **Deputy Gabriel:** Thank you, madam.
Yes, I agree. We will make all routes available that are available to the States for consultation.

The Deputy Bailiff: Any more supplementary questions? In that case, Deputy Gollop, would you ask your second question.

Bus users, environmental organisations and consumer groups consultation

3560 **Deputy Gollop:** Thank you, Madam President.
Will bus users, environmental organisations and consumer groups be given time to be democratically consulted?

3565 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gabriel.

Deputy Gabriel: Thank you, madam.
The Committee recognises the importance of consultation and is extremely grateful to all those that took the time to consider and respond to the bus service proposals through written responses, attendance at the two drop-ins and at the meeting with Douzaine representatives of the western parishes. This feedback is greatly appreciated and currently under consideration.

The public and consumer groups will have ample opportunity to make their views known on any revised proposals in due course.

3575 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Your first supplementary question, Deputy Gollop.

3580 **Deputy Gollop:** Yes, I have to declare I am a President of Living Streets and a member of the Bus Users Group in the town Douzaine and, therefore, my question: is will other Douzaines be considered, as a St Peter Port Douzenier is interested in improving bus services in town? Will other Douzaines be considered for consultation and, for example, the Bus Users Group, as I remember Deputy Gabriel attended a meeting with people, candidates and indeed company representatives last year?

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Gabriel.

3585

Deputy Gabriel: I can only reiterate to Deputy Gollop, madam, that feedback is exceptionally useful and public and consumer groups will have ample opportunity to make their views known. If Douzaines want to meet with myself and representatives from Traffic and Highways and even Stagecoach, then I am quite happy to facilitate that.

3590

The Deputy Bailiff: Any more supplementary questions? No. In that case, we will turn to your third question, Deputy Gollop.

Western route hospital service and airport route reductions

Deputy Gollop: The concerns of constituents, residents both here on Guernsey and on Alderney, funnily enough, were worried about the western route hospital service and airport route reductions. Will you consider making appropriate changes in the light of previous and maybe future feedback?

3595

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Gabriel.

3600

Deputy Gabriel: Thank you, madam.

The Committee is committed to considering the feedback received through the consultation process. The high levels of engagement support the need for consultation on matters such as this so that decisions are informed by the views of the people who rely on the service, such as members from Alderney. In the event that the Committee considers it appropriate to make significant changes, it will consult again with the community.

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The Deputy Bailiff: Your first supplementary question, Deputy Gollop.

Deputy Gollop: Do you consider that much of your mandate in this area is a delicate balance between efficiency and coverage?

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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Gollop, that question does not come out of the answer. *(Interjection)* No, it does not, so I am afraid I am not going to allow you to ask that question. Have you got another supplementary question that comes up?

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Deputy Gollop: No.

The Deputy Bailiff: Your fourth question then, Deputy Gollop.

Electric bus routes serving Princess Elizabeth Hospital

Deputy Gollop: We have two supplementaries on this, assuming that they match. It is understood that the two new electric buses have found route availability challenging due to extra width, lack of pushchair provision and height preventing them serving the seven Princess Elizabeth Hospital bus routes due to the canopy sizes. Is this true and can it be remedied?

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3625

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Gabriel.

Deputy Gabriel: Madam, the electric buses can operate on all routes, including access to the Princess Elizabeth Hospital site in the same way that other vehicles in the fleet can in our integrated service.

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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Gollop, your first supplementary question.

Deputy Gollop: With apologies to the Department, I subsequently heard, after finding the questions, that the electric buses can indeed operate on the hospital route but rarely do because of the challenges. Is suitable training being carried out to ensure all the drivers are comfortable with the new vehicles and their particular idiosyncrasies?

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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Gabriel.

Deputy Gabriel: Madam, astute members of the community who observed our new vehicles in circulation will have seen that they were on our roads but not in service for a significant period of up to two months while driver training was being undertaken specifically for the drivers to get used to the operating idiosyncrasies of a new power type of vehicle and everything that goes with them.

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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Gollop.

Deputy Gollop: I understand during the tests of the prototypes, and indeed the developing time that Deputy Gabriel refers to, that they were aware that the buses are wider than most of the current fleet. Has that proved challenging and, if so, are those challenges being overcome?

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The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Gabriel.

Deputy Gabriel: The proof is in the pudding, madam, and I just wanted to correct Deputy Gollop on his assertion that the vehicles are prototypes. They are nothing of the sort. They are the ADL100 manufactured by Alexander Dennis, a UK company which has been in circulation and providing commercial vehicles and buses for over 100 years. The product is tried, tested and well used across Stagecoach's fleet and in circulation in Singapore, New Zealand, Australia and other jurisdictions.

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It is certainly not a prototype and I refute that remark by Deputy Gollop. The vehicles are in free circulation and providing an excellent service.

3655

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Sloan.

Deputy Sloan: Marvellous buses there, thank you, everyone, and an amazing company that build them, but Deputy Gabriel was very careful with his answer to Deputy Gollop's question when he said that they can be used on those routes. The question is obviously is it possible to. Is it practical for them to be used on those routes and are they used on those routes? Are they scheduled to be used on those routes?

3660

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Gabriel.

Deputy Gabriel: The scheduling is not part of the Committee's mandate. That is down to Stagecoach and how and where they operate the vehicles. It is two vehicles out of a fleet of 41 offering an integrated service which provides services for our school buses as well. So it is a fine balance about driver availability and vehicle availability so, again, I cannot expressly say that they are scheduled on to those routes.

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It depends what is available on the day and, again, the President of E&I and our Committee is not party to the scheduling. Stagecoach operate the service for us on an agreed basis and we provide the vehicles for them to do that.

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3680 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Your second supplementary question, Deputy Sloan.

Deputy Sloan: Thank you, madam.
Apparently, there is that seven-day rule. Could you find out for us if they are regularly scheduled on those routes?

3685 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gabriel.

Deputy Gabriel: Yes.

3690 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Any more supplementary questions? Thank you. That ends the period of questions. States' Greffier, what is the next item of business?

ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

PRESIDING OFFICER

2. Election of a Member of Committee for Employment & Social Security – Election commenced

Article 2.

The States are asked:

To elect a sitting Member of the States as a member of the Committee for Employment & Social Security to complete the unexpired term of office, that is to 30th June 2029, of Deputy David Dorrity who has resigned from that office, in accordance with Rule 16 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees.

The States' Greffier: Article 2. Election of a Member of Committee for Employment and Social Security.

3695 **The Deputy Bailiff:** We now have another election. I will ask Deputy Bury who is the candidate nominated on behalf of Employment and Social Security?

3700 **Deputy Bury:** Thank you, ma'am.
We nominate Deputy Le Brun.

The Deputy Bailiff: I now ask the Chamber is there anybody else who is going to propose a Member for the Committee for Employment & Social Security in Deputy Dorrity's place? I am terribly sorry. Who wishes to second Deputy Le Brun's nomination?

3705 **A Member:** I do, ma'am.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you, and thank you for the stage whisper to remind me.
Is there anybody else who wishes to propose another Member for the role of a member of the Committee for Employment & Social Security? No? In that case, we will go straight to a vote and this is an old-fashioned vote into the hat.

You do not need to write your names on anything this time. We just need to write the name of the person we are voting for and an envelope will come around. Has everybody handed their slips?

3715 In that case, I will ask the Deputy Sheriff to withdraw and count them. We will move on to the next item of business while we wait for the result. States' Greffier.

**3. Election of a Member of the Ladies College Board of Governors –
Election commenced**

Article 3.

The States are asked:

To re-elect Mr Brian Acton as a member of the Ladies' College Board of Governors, who need not be a member of the States, on the expiry of his current term of office on 31st May 2026, in accordance with Rule 16 of The Rules of Procedure of 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 3. Election of a Member of the Ladies College Board of Governors.

3720 **The Deputy Bailiff:** This is a Presiding Officer proposition. This is to re-elect Brian Acton as a member of the Ladies College Board of Governors whose term expires on 31st May 2026 and, in accordance with the Rules, this again is a secret ballot as nominations can be made from the floor.

3725 So are there any nominations from the floor in relation to this post on the Ladies College Board of Governors? No. In that case, I hope we have another envelope because we now need to have another secret ballot in relation to this. Yes, we have another envelope. Are there any more votes to be collected in? I can see there is one up here. Thank you. Again, rather than waste this time, States' Greffier, what is the next item of business?

Billet d'État VII

ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

COMMITTEE FOR HOME AFFAIRS

**1. Police Complaints Commission:
Appointment of Three Commissioners –
Proposition Carried**

Article 1.

The States are asked to decide:-

Whether, after consideration of the policy letter entitled 'Police Complaints Commission - Appointment of Three Commissioners' dated 01.04.2026, they are of the opinion:-

To appoint Mr Willem van Zanten as an ordinary member of the Police Complaints Commission for a period of four years with immediate effect; and

To appoint Ms Jemma Welsh as an ordinary member of the Police Complaints Commission for a period of four years with immediate effect; and

To appoint Ms Lisa Evans as an ordinary member of the Police Complaints Commission for a period of four years with immediate effect.

3730 **The States' Greffier:** Billet d'État VII, Article 1. Committee for Home Affairs, Police Complaints Commission: Appointment of Three Commissioners.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Leadbeater.

Deputy Leadbeater: Thank you, Madam Deputy Bailiff.

3735 This is a self-explanatory policy letter that seeks the appointment of three new members of the Police Complaints Commission, each for a four-year term. I ask the Assembly to support the Proposition.

3740 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Does anybody wish to speak on this matter in debate? No. In that case, we will go straight to the vote, which is on SEV. States' Greffier, would you open the voting, please? There are still a number of people in the Chamber who have not voted yet.

There was a recorded vote.

3745 *Carried – Pour 37, Contre 0, Ne vote pas 0, Did not vote 3, Absent 0*

Pour	Contre	Ne vote pas	Did not vote	Absent
Blin, Chris	None	None	Burford, Yvonne	None
Bury, Tina			Curgenvn, Rob	
Cameron, Andy			Matthews, Aidan	
Camp, Haley				
Collins, Garry				
de Sausmarez, Lindsay				
Dorrity, David				
Falla, Steve				
Gabriel, Adrian				
Gollop, John				
Goy, David				
Hansmann Rouxel, Sarah				
Helyar, Mark				
Hill, Edward				
Humphreys, Rhona				
Inder, Neil				
Kay-Mouat, Bruno				
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha				
Laine, Marc				
Le Brun, Ross				
Leadbeater, Marc				
Malik, Munazza				
McKenna, Liam				
Montague, Paul				
Niles, Andrew				
Oswald, George				
Ozanne, Jayne				
Parkinson, Charles				
Rochester, Sally				
Rylatt, Tom				
Sloan, Andy				
Snowdon, Alexander				
St Pier, Gavin				
Strachan, Jennifer				
Van Katwyk, Lee				
Vermeulen, Simon				
Williams, Steve				

3750 **The Deputy Bailiff:** There voted in relation to the Proposition with the appointment of the three Commissioners to the Police Complaints Commission: pour 37 and 3 Members were not in the Chamber at the time of the vote. I therefore declare that the Proposition has been passed.

**Committee for Employment & Social Security –
Deputy Ross Le Brun elected as member**

3755 **The Deputy Bailiff:** In relation to the vote for Deputy Le Brun to join the Committee for Employment & Social Security, Deputy Le Brun received 31 votes and there were 4 votes who indicated no. So, I declare that Deputy Le Brun has duly been appointed as a member of the Committee for Employment & Social Security.

**Ladies' College Board of Governors –
Brian Acton elected as member**

The Deputy Bailiff: In relation to the election as a member of the Ladies' College Board of Governors, there voted 34 votes for Mr Acton and there were 3 no votes. I therefore declare that Mr Acton has duly been re-appointed on to the Ladies' College Board of Governors.

LEGISLATION LAID BEFORE THE STATES

**The Education (Governance Boards) Regulations, 2026;
The Income Tax (Deductions for Repairs) (Transitional Provisions) (Guernsey)
Regulations, 2026;
The Polling Station (Hours of Operation) Regulations, 2026;
The Immigration (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules, 2026;
The Immigration (Provision of Physical Data) (Amendment) Regulations, 2026**

3760 **The Deputy Bailiff:** States' Greffier.

3765 **The States' Greffier:** The following legislation are laid before the States: The Education (Governance Boards) Regulations 2026; The Income Tax (Deductions for Repairs) (Transitional Provisions) (Guernsey) Regulations 2026; The Polling Station (Hours of Operation) Regulations 2026; The Immigration (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules 2026; The Immigration (Provision of Physical Data) (Amendment) Regulations 2026.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

LEGISLATION FOR APPROVAL

THE COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

3770

**2. Trust Law Amendments –
Proposition Carried**

Article 2.

The States are asked to decide:-

Whether, after consideration of the policy letter entitled 'Trusts Law Amendments' dated 20th March 2026, they are of the opinion:-

To approve the recommended amendments to the Trusts (Guernsey) Law, 2007, as set out in section 2 of the policy letter.

To direct the preparation of such legislation as may be necessary to give effect to the above decision.

The States' Greffier: Article 2, The Committee for Economic Development, Trust Law Amendments.

3775 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Yes. Which member of – yes, Deputy Humphreys.

Deputy Humphreys: Madam, I am pleased to introduce the Committee for Economic Development's proposals for amendment to the Trust (Guernsey) Law 2007, which I will refer to in this speech as 'the Trust Law'.

3780 Trusts have a long history in Guernsey, with examples of trusts being recognised and given effect as early as the 19th century. Whilst trust law did not form part of the ancient Norman law, from which much of Guernsey's customary law was derived, the Royal Court nonetheless recognised trusts as existing as a matter of Guernsey law, blending English and Guernsey customary law principles and trusts becoming increasingly significant as wealth management structures as Guernsey's finance sector developed in the 1960s and 1970s.

3785 The States of Deliberation enacted Guernsey's first Trust Law in 1989, formalising the legal principles recognised by the Royal Court and providing legal certainty to the many businesses operating in the successful fiduciary sector. In 2007, following a comprehensive review, the 1989 Law was repealed and replaced by the Trust Law following a comprehensive industry-led review, further enhancing Guernsey's Trust Law and the appeal of Guernsey as a jurisdiction of choice for international trust services.

3790 The Trust Law has stood the test of time well, underpinning Guernsey's successful fiduciary sector for the last 19 years with only minor amendment. However, trust law has continued to evolve in Guernsey and other jurisdictions, both through case law and legislation elsewhere. A sub-committee of the Guernsey Bar therefore undertook a comprehensive review of the Trust Law and made recommendations to the Committee as to the proposed amendments to ensure that the Trust Law remains up to date and supports the continued development of our local finance sector.

3795 Following detailed discussions with the sub-committee, these recommendations formed the basis of engagement with local trust industry associations and other interested parties regarding potential amendments to the Trust Law to enhance the legal framework applicable to Guernsey trusts and provide support to our local fiduciary sector.

3800 There was strong support for the proposals overall. Perhaps inevitably, given that some of the proposals touch on issues which have been the subject of considerable debate in the fiduciary sector, both in Guernsey and other jurisdictions, there was some divergence of opinion on specific proposals. However, all feedback was considered carefully and, where differences of opinion were identified, proposals were particularly carefully reviewed and revised where this was considered appropriate.

3805 I am not going to duplicate what is said in the policy letter regarding the specific proposed amendments, which concern detailed technical matters. The policy letter should be self-explanatory in that regard. However, if anyone would like me to try and elaborate, I would be happy to do so. I will say that the package of proposed amendments, taken as a whole, will represent a welcome update to the Trust Law, taking account of developments both locally and internationally since it was first enacted. I say this as someone with both theoretical and practical experience in this area.

3810 The recent published *Financial Sector Strategy 2035: Driving Growth for Guernsey* identified the global fiduciary sector as experiencing robust growth driven by the rising personal financial wealth and noted that Guernsey has positioned itself as a trusted jurisdiction for the fiduciary sector, offering a broad range of private wealth and corporate services. The strategy identifies that Guernsey has a strong reputation supported by legal stability and high professional standards. The

3820 proposed amendments will ensure that the Trust Law continues to play a key role in the development and success of the fiduciary sector into the future.

Madam, I am pleased to commend these proposals to the Assembly.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.

Who wishes to speak on the amendments to the Trust Law?

3825 Deputy Gollop.

Deputy Gollop: This is probably an area that some of us have not given due attention to, but I thank Deputy Humphreys for her speech and do think Economic Development is a very interesting Committee. Of course, Deputy Humphreys has great professional background in this sphere.

3830 I think it says in our report – and I do not know if we fully realise the significance of this, some of us – that there are 1,600 professionals working in the sector. That is a huge number of people, equivalent to 1.6 million in the UK proportionately. The 1,600 are probably, for the most part, very good earners and contributors to society, so it is essential that we keep pace.

3835 There are perhaps three points. The policy letter indicates, as has Deputy Humphreys' speech, that there has been differences of opinion but nevertheless widespread acceptance from the Bar and other professionals in this field. We hope that when it comes back to us on the Legislation Scrutiny Panel, chaired by Deputy Camp, the legislation will be not only true to the policy letter but will not get pushed back at that stage by people lobbying States' Members saying, 'Oh, that part might not work'. So we want assurances that the professionals are continually involved, especially
3840 when we draft the legislation.

The other two are mysterious points, perhaps. Why at this stage, after many years of successful fiduciary legislation, have we decided to follow other jurisdictions in effectively imposing a fiduciary duty on the holder of the power? Mention is made about possible differences between different sections of the fiduciary powers, but it would appear that we are following other jurisdictions and
3845 I wonder why that is.

The other question is there is speculation that historically in Guernsey law, and perhaps by mistake in the 1989 Law, we have created the sense that trusts can expire after 100 years, and I do not think that is the case. How easy will it be? It says here:

It is therefore proposed to provide that the 100-year limit only applies to trusts, the proper law of which was the Law of Guernsey in the period between the enactment of the 1989 Law and the enactment of the Trust Law.

3850

So future trusts, regardless of whether they are charitable or not, will have an unlimited life. Is that considered the best way forward?

Thank you. I do support the proposals.

3855 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Gabriel.

Deputy Gabriel: Thank you, madam.

I want to build on what Deputy Gollop says around section 15 and the presumption of fiduciary power being flipped from having no presumption to having presumption. I would just like to have
3860 some more clarification around that and what duty that puts on anyone in relation to the trusts.

Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

3865 **Deputy St Pier:** Madam, I have some affection for the 2007 Law because I was on the industry working group that helped draft it at the time. So, I read this policy letter with great attention.

I have just one question for Deputy Humphreys in relation to paragraph 2(18), which refers to section 76. This is all about addressing limitation and prescription periods; as the policy letter

3870 helpfully explains, the period within which certain actions must be commenced. It goes on to suggest that in respect of a claimant it prescribes that the period of three years runs from the date on which the claimant first has knowledge of the breach and then it goes on to say:

The Committee believes that it is appropriate to reintroduce the alternatives of prescription running from the earlier of ...

3875 This is towards the end of the paragraph on page 13:

... the date of delivery of the accounts of the trust, provided those accounts are complete and accurate, to the beneficiaries or the date on which the claimant first has knowledge of the breach and recommends that the Trust Law be amended accordingly.

Now, in principle I have no great objection to that. However, I think there is an important potential caveat which does need to be considered in relation to the delivery of accounts of the trust. Where it says:

3880 ... provided those accounts are complete and accurate ...

I think it should also go on to say, 'and from which they can reasonably identify the breach'. Because it is all very well if a beneficiary receives a set of accounts that would otherwise be regarded by an accountant as being complete and accurate but from which the beneficiary is completely
3885 unable to determine the breach. I think it would be unreasonable to have the prescription period running from the date of the delivery of those accounts.

So, I would be grateful if the Committee could take that under advisement amongst themselves and with the industry and, indeed, of course, with those that will be drafting this legislation, but beyond that I am happy to support the other changes that are suggested.

3890 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Sloan.

Deputy Sloan: Thank you very much, madam.

3895 Time was maybe about 10 years ago I probably would have been all over the detail of this, but not today. I do not think many of us are.

In terms of section 15, Deputy Gabriel, through you, madam, I actually agree with that presumption of fiduciary duty, for what is the point otherwise?

I would say one thing. The Trust Law amendments have been coming for many a year and it might be if we could look at the process that might give the industry an opportunity to seek to look
3900 at revisions and improvements with a bit more regularity than we have hitherto managed.

Thank you very much.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy Kazantseva-Miller.

3905 **Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Madam, I just wanted to comment briefly that while this is quite a thin policy letter, it is quite consequential and it is the first one since the Law of 2007, a major revision that is being brought in this Assembly. Deputy Sloan is absolutely right. It has been on the books cooking in the pot for quite a while, and I know Deputy Humphreys and Deputy Camp have been involved from the industry side of things. We have quite a lot of policy work on other parts of
3910 the industry probably in a similar situation. I think we need to get quicker and better in undertaking policy revisions and making sure that the legislative drafting accompanying them is also swift and consequential.

So I just want to say this is actually a very important piece of work. Trusts is one of the five core pillars of our financial services, so this is actually quite an important policy letter from our
3915 perspective, and we are very delighted to be bringing it today.

The Deputy Bailiff: Thank you.
Does anybody else wish – Deputy Collins.

3920 **Deputy Collins:** Thank you very much, ma’am.
Just very briefly, I used to work for Rothschild Trust, so I welcome the Committee bringing this. Also, obviously just to declare, I am a trustee of the Corbett Memorial Field Trust.

3925 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Does anybody else wish to speak in general debate? No. In that case, I will ask Deputy Humphreys to respond on behalf of the Committee *for* Economic Development.

Deputy Humphreys: Thank you, madam.

Deputy Gollop, thank you for pointing out that there are 1,600 professionals in the fiduciary industry. Just out of interest, they are the largest employer in financial services.

3930 There was concern – sorry, I do apologise. I have written ‘that part might not work’ and I cannot remember what part you raised, so I do apologise for that. I remember what it was. The point is that it is well-established practice anyway in trust deed drafting to actually exclude certain parts of the Trust Law. So where there are bits that might not work, for certain trustees or certain beneficiaries those can be excluded.

3935 Your question about why now following other jurisdictions on fiduciary power probably was summed up by other people’s talking about how long this has been coming. That fiduciary power ought to have been there and it has been a long time coming.

3940 Historically, trusts could expire. That goes back in history to generational wealth and trusts not going on forever. The reality is life has changed somewhat now. Trusts are used in a very different way and an unlimited life is the best way forward. In fact, I know of examples where the limited life of a Guernsey trust has actually prevented work coming into this jurisdiction.

Deputy Gabriel, the flip of the fiduciary power, it is just that; it is a flip. It will protect our clients. It will protect clients of the jurisdiction. So, I think it is a good thing.

3945 Deputy St Pier, thank you for your comment about the prescription periods, and I accept your statement about the identification of a breach from a set of accounts. We have all read accounts which are, frankly, not able to be read, so I will take that back as you requested.

Deputy Sloan, thanks for acknowledging this is a long time coming. I think I first discussed this over 10 years ago with the Guernsey Association of Trustees, so I am pleased to get there and thank you for recognising that.

3950 Deputy Kazantseva-Miller, I echo her point that it is really important that we get quicker at drafting this stuff. We have stuff on the Economic Development Committee, extant Resolutions, that really needs bringing forward and finishing off. Other than that, I think that is it.

Thank you very much.

3955 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Thank you very much.
Members, you should have on your screens the Proposition. I will ask the States’ Greffier to open the voting.

There was a recorded vote.

3960 *Carried – Pour 39, Contre 0, Ne vote pas 0, Did not vote 1, Absent 0*

Pour	Contre	Ne vote pas	Did not vote	Absent
Blin, Chris Bury, Tina Cameron, Andy Camp, Haley Collins, Garry Curgenvin, Rob de Sausmarez, Lindsay	None	None	Burford, Yvonne	None

Dorrity, David
Falla, Steve
Gabriel, Adrian
Gollop, John
Goy, David
Hansmann Rouxel, Sarah
Helyar, Mark
Hill, Edward
Humphreys, Rhona
Inder, Neil
Kay-Mouat, Bruno
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha
Laine, Marc
Le Brun, Ross
Leadbeater, Marc
Malik, Munazza
Matthews, Aidan
McKenna, Liam
Montague, Paul
Niles, Andrew
Oswald, George
Ozanne, Jayne
Parkinson, Charles
Rochester, Sally
Rylatt, Tom
Sloan, Andy
Snowdon, Alexander
St Pier, Gavin
Strachan, Jennifer
Van Katwyk, Lee
Vermeulen, Simon
Williams, Steve

The Deputy Bailiff: There voted in relation to this Proposition: pour 39 and 1 Member was not in the Chamber at the time of the voting. I therefore declare that this Proposition has been carried.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

3965

3. Amendments to Register of Contact Details Law – Proposition Carried

Article 3.

Whether, after consideration of the policy letter entitled 'Amendments to Register of Contact Details Law' dated 2nd April 2026, they are of the opinion:

To amend "The States' Register of Contact Details (Guernsey and Alderney) Law 2019" by Ordinance, to add His Majesty's Greffier and the Alderney Greffier to the list of designated authorities in Schedule 2 to that Law.

To direct the preparation of such legislation as may be necessary to give effect to the above decision.

The States' Greffier: Article 3. Policy & Resources Committee, Amendments to Register of Contact Details Law.

3970

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy de Sausmarez on behalf of the Policy & Resources Committee.

Deputy de Sausmarez: Thank you, madam.

3975 This is another pretty slim policy letter. I am not going to stand here and pretend that it is going to set anyone's world on fire. It is quite dry. It is one of those small things that will make a difference over time. More to the point, it is one of those things that if we do not make this change, it will become increasingly frustrating and annoying and prevent us from doing the things that we want to do and really frustrate that general direction of travel towards greater efficiency and digitisation.

3980 The Register of Contact Details is essentially the master file, if you like, of the States' customer data. It underpins an awful lot of government services, obviously. At the moment, it is not as robust as it could be. The quality of that data is not as robust because we do not have all of the verification processes that we would like to have. That is partly because we have a little bit of a left hand/right hand situation. It is fine, there are lots of manual checks, so I am not suggesting that customer data is all over the shop. It is just a bit more manual and there is a bit more duplication (*Interjection*) than I think would be ideal. Bless, Deputy Laine. I do not know how to say that in accordance with Rule 17(1).

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy de Sausmarez says 'Bless you'.

3990 **Deputy de Sausmarez:** Thank you. (*Laughter*)

So, this is quite straightforward. That Register of Contact Details is governed by the Register of Contact Details Law, and what we are proposing through this very slim policy letter is some amendments to improve the provision of government services. Ultimately, this is about end users, so it is about people within the community having greater visibility of and access to their data in accordance, obviously, with all the necessary data protection provisions, but really just to cut down on that duplication and increase the robustness of data verification so in time it will help us build a more accurate single source of information.

3995 The meat of the issue is that we have His Majesty's Greffier in Guernsey and the Alderney Greffier, who are responsible for the registration of births, deaths and marriages. That all requires the provision of original documentation, so by granting access to them, the data in the Register of Contact Details can be verified against the original documentation, which strengthens that process of data verification.

4000 The amendments will establish a clear statutory basis for His Majesty's Greffier and the Alderney Greffier to share specified data with, and access specified data kept on, the Register of Contact Details. So while this is quite dry and technical, it does underpin a general principle of more robust data and ultimately more user-friendly data from a member of the community's perspective.

4005 The general direction of travel is that the central resource of information can become more automated and more efficient and ultimately that will support greater digitisation of government services further down the line.

4010 I am really hoping no one asks me any super technical questions. I have not had any advance warning of any, but I am more than happy to give them a shot if anyone does.

Thank you.

4015 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Does anybody wish to ask any questions, technical or not, to Deputy de Sausmarez? No. Well, in that case we will go straight to the vote. It should be on your screens now and I will ask the States' Greffier to open the voting.

There was a recorded vote.

4020 *Carried – Pour 39, Contre 0, Ne vote pas 0, Did not vote 1, Absent 0*

Pour	Contre	Ne vote pas	Did not vote	Absent
Blin, Chris Bury, Tina Cameron, Andy Camp, Haley	None	None	Burford, Yvonne	None

Collins, Garry
Curgenvén, Rob
de Sausmarez, Lindsay
Dorrity, David
Falla, Steve
Gabriel, Adrian
Gollop, John
Goy, David
Hansmann Rouxel, Sarah
Helyar, Mark
Hill, Edward
Humphreys, Rhona
Inder, Neil
Kay-Mouat, Bruno
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha
Laine, Marc
Le Brun, Ross
Leadbeater, Marc
Malik, Munazza
Matthews, Aidan
McKenna, Liam
Montague, Paul
Niles, Andrew
Oswald, George
Ozanne, Jayne
Parkinson, Charles
Rochester, Sally
Rylatt, Tom
Sloan, Andy
Snowdon, Alexander
St Pier, Gavin
Strachan, Jennifer
Van Katwyk, Lee
Vermeulen, Simon
Williams, Steve

4025 **The Deputy Bailiff:** There voted in relation to the Proposition dealing with the amendments to the Register of Contact Details Law: pour 39 and 1 Member was not in the Chamber at the time of voting. I therefore declare that the Proposition was passed.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

4. Schedule for future States' business – Proposition carried as amended

Article 4.

The States are asked to decide:

Whether, after consideration of the attached Schedule for Future States' Business, which sets out items for consideration at the Ordinary States Meeting on 24th June, they are of the opinion to approve the Schedule.

The Deputy Bailiff: States' Greffier.

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The States' Greffier: Article 4. Policy & Resources Committee, Schedule for future States' business.

The Deputy Bailiff: Deputy de Sausmarez.

4035

Deputy de Sausmarez: Thank you, madam.
There is an amendment to this, if it is okay to use that?

The Deputy Bailiff: Yes, we will move straight to the amendment then.

4040

Deputy de Sausmarez: Thank you.

[Amendment 1.](#)

To insert at the end of the Proposition the following:

“subject to inserting after “P.2026/31 – Committee for Housing – Legislative Changes to Enable Implementation of the Open Market Part A Inscriptions Policy” in paragraph (g) the following:

“P.2026/38 – States’ Trading Supervisory Body – QEII Marina Gate Replacement (and the Associated Infrastructure)

P.2026/39 – Policy & Resources Committee – Prioritisation of Legislative Drafting

P.2026/40 – Policy & Resources Committee – 2026 Report on Extant States’ Resolutions”.

The Deputy Bailiff: Would you like the States’ Greffier to read it out?

4045

Deputy de Sausmarez: No, I will just explain. I think it is probably a bit wordy and it is probably easier if I just explain in actual English what this is about.

4050

It is very straightforward. It is really just to amend in, in other words to include, a few items into the schedule for the upcoming Meeting, which will be the Meeting on 24th June, noting, of course, something that has been mentioned previously in this sitting, which is July is going to be a really busy meeting. So the idea behind this amendment is to really try to smooth the progression of some of that work so that we do not all miss a chunk of the start of the summer in July or we have to roll work over or too much work until into September. Because we are anticipating that July is going to be a very popular month for items coming to this Assembly we are trying to smooth it out a bit.

4055

The amendment proposes inserting into the schedule for the 24th June Meeting – and I do have to apologise. There is a typo on the paper version but it is correct on the printed version; I have checked. It is the STSB’s item on the QEII marina gate – it should be, not ‘marine’ gate – replacement and the associated infrastructure, the prioritisation of legislative drafting policy letter, which has been circulated this morning, as has the final item that we are proposing to amend in, which is another P&R policy letter, which is the report on extant States’ Resolutions. Those are housekeeping ones, so again hopefully it is quite self-explanatory.

4060

Thank you.

4065

The Deputy Bailiff: I was just going to explain the Rules, but I will ask Deputy Falla to second that first then.

Deputy Falla: Thank you, ma’am.

I do.

4070

The Deputy Bailiff: Yes. There are limits in terms of who can debate an amendment, and if you look at Rule 3(18) it is limited to members of P&R and the STSB. So unless STSB wish to say anything, we will move then to the vote on the amendment.

4075

Deputy Gabriel: Can I raise a point of order, ma’am?

The Deputy Bailiff: Yes, you may, Deputy Gabriel.

4080 **Deputy Gabriel:** The amendment does not have any asterisks associated with them, so essentially we are inserting them into the Schedule for Business and they are not able to be amended. Is that correct?

Would you like some clarification, madam, of my intention?

4085 **The Deputy Bailiff:** I am just waiting for the President of P&R to confirm what she thinks the position should be.

4090 **Deputy de Sausmarez:** There was actually a discussion about asterisks at the Committee meeting and I thought we had agreed to put them in. As it came out with a typo that I definitely did not put in, I do not know what has happened to the asterisks. Maybe they have gone the same way, they have eloped with the 'a' on the end of 'marina'.

The Deputy Bailiff: Is it your intention, Deputy de Sausmarez, that these do and should have asterisks on them?

4095 **Deputy de Sausmarez:** Yes, I think so from memory. Amendments with the proposed meeting dates in order are permitted only for those – hang on. I am just getting some advice.

4100 **The Deputy Bailiff:** No, the States' Greffier is pointing out this is in relation to the order for business. It does not mean that the asterisks will not be present in the final version. Is that correct, States' Greffier? You drafted it so I am going to check with you.

So the States' Greffier's view is it does not need the asterisks. Do you wish it to go ahead without the asterisks, which is the important question for you, Deputy de Sausmarez?

4105 **Deputy de Sausmarez:** I would like to see the back of these asterisks. I would like to see the asterisks not have to bother us again in relation to this particular amendment. They are not necessary. Can we just say it on the amendment?

The Deputy Bailiff: There you are, Deputy Gabriel. Deputy de Sausmarez does not wish the asterisks to be inserted now. She does not think they are necessary.

4110 So therefore I will ask the States' Greffier to open the voting on the amendment as drafted on the SEV with QEII marina gate replacement and no asterisks. Would you open the voting, please?

There was a recorded vote.

4115 *Carried – Pour 36, Contre 3, Ne vote pas 0, Did not vote 1, Absent 0*

Pour	Contre	Ne vote pas	Did not vote	Absent
Blin, Chris	Camp, Haley	None	Burford, Yvonne	None
Bury, Tina	Gabriel, Adrian			
Cameron, Andy	Sloan, Andy			
Collins, Garry				
Curgenven, Rob				
de Sausmarez, Lindsay				
Dorrity, David				
Falla, Steve				
Gollop, John				
Goy, David				
Hansmann Rouxel, Sarah				
Helyar, Mark				
Hill, Edward				
Humphreys, Rhona				
Inder, Neil				
Kay-Mouat, Bruno				
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha				

Laine, Marc
Le Brun, Ross
Leadbeater, Marc
Malik, Munazza
Matthews, Aidan
McKenna, Liam
Montague, Paul
Niles, Andrew
Oswald, George
Ozanne, Jayne
Parkinson, Charles
Rochester, Sally
Rylatt, Tom
Snowdon, Alexander
St Pier, Gavin
Strachan, Jennifer
Van Katwyk, Lee
Vermeulen, Simon
Williams, Steve

The Deputy Bailiff: There voted in relation to the amendment: pour 36; contre 3; and 1 Member was not in the Chamber at the time of voting. I therefore declare that the amendment was passed. It is now open for general debate.

4120

Yes, Deputy Sloan.

Deputy Sloan: Thank you, madam.

I know it is late and we are all trying to get off and, yes, I have to get to Clintons by 5.30 to buy a card. But I do want to make a general chunter. I do not actually like that Rule, whatever it is, 3(18), whatever. It does not allow anybody else to speak when we are amending the future business. Obviously, this month it is the exception that proves the rule. They are pretty uncontentious stuff, the marina gates or whatever and the prioritisation of legislative drafting. I cannot imagine that is long. Reporting extant States' Resolutions, I cannot imagine that is long. But it has been used in the past. It was used last Meeting and it was used six months ago to put something substantive on the agenda at short notice.

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Now, there are time periods for future States' business and I have a policy letter that I was trying to get in and cannot get it in there in time. It will have to go to July and will have to get deferred. That is the way the cookie crumbles, but I do not like the fact that the agenda can be controlled and things put on the agenda where people do not have sufficient time. It happened twice this year, both times before a public holiday, before a seasonal holiday, before Christmas and before Easter. Both were subject to, in the end, a contentious debate in parts, and I do not think it is good government for us to do that.

4135

So I really do not like this Rule. I will be writing to SACC and asking them to look at this Rule because I think the order of business impacts on all of us. That is my only ability to make that point today was to make it in general debate. Apologies for keeping you two more minutes away from the sun, but I am really unhappy with the way that this works.

4140

Thank you.

The Deputy Bailiff: Does anybody else wish to speak in general debate? No. In that case, Deputy de Sausmarez, do you wish to reply on behalf of the Policy & Resources Committee?

4145

Deputy de Sausmarez: Yes, thank you.

I do take a different view to Deputy Sloan. In the three terms that – well, two and a bit terms that I have been in this Assembly I think amendments to the schedule have played a really important part in helping us better manage the flow of work through the Assembly, especially at the start of term where it can be very lumpy. So we have had meetings where, had we not amended, we would

4150

have had barely anything on the agenda at all. It does help us better manage. For example, in this case it is about avoiding a logjam in July, so it still gives everyone plenty of time.

4155 I would say I would be intrigued to see what SACC do with this because my understanding is there are absolutely no Rules over the submission deadlines. They are an administrative construct. I do not believe they exist in the Rules.

I will give way to Deputy Sloan.

4160 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Deputy Sloan.

Deputy Sloan: Sorry, madam, through you.

I was meaning the actual Rule that only people that were immediately affected could speak on the amendment. That is my point.

4165

The Deputy Bailiff: Rule 3(18) you are referring to, Deputy Sloan?

Deputy Sloan: Yes.

4170 **Deputy de Sausmarez:** Okay, I think that is fair enough and obviously I would be supportive of SACC considering that.

I would just say I think the ability to amend the schedule – and I would point out that that ability is not constricted to P&R; other people can bring an amendment to the Schedule for Future Business as well. Yes, I take Deputy Sloan’s point about the constraint around who can speak on that Rule and I think it is sensible that SACC take a look at that.

4175

Really, as to this, I think it is a sensible looking agenda for 24th June. We obviously have a good five weeks or whatever to read and get our heads around any business that we have not already read ahead of then. I just encourage Members to support the schedule, asterisks and all.

Thank you.

4180

The Deputy Bailiff: No asterisks.

Deputy de Sausmarez: No, there are.

4185 **The Deputy Bailiff:** Oh, there are asterisks in that one, sorry. Those with asterisks and those without. *(Laughter)*

Members, you have before you the Proposition. I will ask the States’ Greffier to open this last vote of this month’s session of the States, please.

4190 *There was a recorded vote.*

Carried – Pour 38, Contre 1, Ne vote pas 0, Did not vote 1, Absent 0

Pour	Contre	Ne vote pas	Did not vote	Absent
Blin, Chris	Gabriel, Adrian	None	Burford, Yvonne	None
Bury, Tina				
Cameron, Andy				
Camp, Haley				
Collins, Garry				
Curgenven, Rob				
de Sausmarez, Lindsay				
Dorrity, David				
Falla, Steve				
Gollop, John				
Goy, David				
Hansmann Rouxel, Sarah				
Helyar, Mark				

Hill, Edward
Humphreys, Rhona
Inder, Neil
Kay-Mouat, Bruno
Kazantseva-Miller, Sasha
Laine, Marc
Le Brun, Ross
Leadbeater, Marc
Malik, Munazza
Matthews, Aidan
McKenna, Liam
Montague, Paul
Niles, Andrew
Oswald, George
Ozanne, Jayne
Parkinson, Charles
Rochester, Sally
Rylatt, Tom
Sloan, Andy
Snowdon, Alexander
St Pier, Gavin
Strachan, Jennifer
Van Katwyk, Lee
Vermeulen, Simon
Williams, Steve

4195 **The Deputy Bailiff:** There voted in relation to the Schedule for Future States' Business: pour 38; 1 contre; 1 Member was no longer in the Chamber at the time of voting. I therefore declare that the Proposition has passed.

We have now come to the conclusion. Can I commend and congratulate Deputy Le Brun on asking lots of questions and doing his maiden speech on the very first day of his very first session in the States? (**Several Members:** Hear, hear.)

4200 After a rather hot ending to today's session, can we close the Meeting, please, States' Greffier?

The Assembly adjourned at 5.02 p.m.

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