



OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

STATES OF DELIBERATION

OF THE

ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

HANSARD

Royal Court House, Guernsey, Wednesday, 8th June 2016

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Present:

Sir Richard J. Collas, Kt, Bailiff and Presiding Officer

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People's Deputies

St Peter Port South

Deputies P. T. R. Ferbrache, J. Kuttelwascher, D. A. Tindall,
B. L. Brehaut, R. H. Tooley

St Peter Port North

Deputies J. A. B. Gollop, C. N. K. Parkinson, L. C. Queripel, M. K. Le Clerc,
M. P. Leadbeater, J. I. Mooney

St Sampson

P. R. Le Pelley, J. S. Merrett, G. A. St Pier,
T. J. Stephens, C. P. Meerveld

The Vale

Deputies M. J. Fallaize, M. M. Lowe, L. B. Queripel,
J. C. S. F. Smithies, S. T. Hansmann Rouxel

The Castel

Deputies R. H. Graham, L.V.O, M.B.E, C. J. Green, B. J. E. Paint,
M. H. Dorey, J. P. Le Tocq

The West

Deputies A. H. Brouard, A. C. Dudley-Owen, E. A. Yerby,
D. de G. De Lisle, S. L. Langlois

The South-East

Deputies H. J. R. Soulsby, H. L. de Sausmarez, P. J. R. Roffey,
R. G. Prow, V. S. Oliver

The Clerk to the States of Deliberation

S. M. D. Ross, Esq. (H.M. Senior Deputy Greffier)

Absent at the Evocation

Miss M. M. E. Pullum, Q.C. (H.M. Comptroller)

Deputy L. S. Trott (absent de l'île); Deputy D. B. Jones (indisposé);

Alderney Representatives L. E. Jean (absent de l'île) and S. D. G. McKinley, O.B.E. (absent de l'île)

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States of Deliberation

*The States met at 9.30 a.m. in the presence of
His Excellency Vice-Admiral Ian Corder, C.B.
Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Bailiwick of Guernsey*

[THE BAILIFF *in the Chair*]

PRAYERS

The Senior Deputy Greffier

EVOCATION

CONVOCAATION

The Senior Deputy Greffier: To the Members of the States of the Island of Guernsey, Billet d'État XVII of 2016, I hereby give notice that a meeting of the States of Deliberation will be held at the Royal Court House on Wednesday, 8th June 2016 at 9.30 a.m. to consider the items listed in this Billet d'État which have been submitted for debate.

5

The Bailiff: Members of the States, good morning to you all.
It is quite warm today so those who wish to do so may remove their jackets.

STATEMENTS

First Quarter 2016 – Economic and fiscal position – Statement by the President of the Policy & Resources Committee

The Bailiff: We begin with a Statement by the President of the Policy & Resources Committee on the first quarter 2016 economic and fiscal position.

10

Deputy St Pier.

Deputy St Pier: Thank you, sir.

15

If I actually may begin by departing from my Statement to wish Deputy Fallaize, on behalf of us all, a happy 35th birthday! (*Laughter*) (**Several Members:** Hear, hear.) I can say with confidence that I know he would rather be nowhere else other than here! (*Laughter*)

Sir, thank you for the opportunity to make a Statement this morning to update the Assembly on the Island's economic performance and the state of our public finances at the end of the first quarter for 2016.

20

Given an extended period of global economic weakness, which of course began in 2008, and relatively low growth rates in developed economies, our own economy continues to perform well

by comparison to the conditions elsewhere. Our economy contracted in 2009 but has grown in every year since; registered unemployment remains low at 1.3%; real earnings grew by a modest 0.2%; and inflation remains low at 0.5%; the population increased modestly by 140 people in the year to June 2015; the Chamber of Commerce survey last week disclosed the vast majority of businesses reporting turnover, profits and numbers of employees for both 2015 and their expectations for 2016 to either be the same or greater than the previous year; and there has been a small increase in the number of local property market transactions in the first quarter; and the financial services industry – particularly the funds and insurance sectors – is growing in both terms of funds under their administration and in terms of jobs. All this is a cause for cautious optimism that we can be more confident about our economy's performance.

Before turning to 2016, I would like to take a couple of moments to comment on the final audited 2015 financial position, which was published yesterday and which, of course, we will debate later this month, sir.

At the time of the last Annual Budget for the States, our expectation was that the projected balanced Budget, after allowing for all income, expenditure and appropriations in 2015, would deteriorate to an overall deficit of £20 million. In March, as the year end revenue positions were still being calculated, I reported that the deficit was likely to be worse, at some £23 million. Unfortunately, the finalised accounts now show an overall deficit of £24.5 million.

This significant and hugely disappointing deterioration was entirely due to income being lower than expected by £26.5 million. Income Tax accounted for the majority of that gap, but lower than anticipated document duty receipts and the delay in the introduction of the Vehicle First Registration Duty all contributed to the position.

The Budget for 2016 was, of course, compiled in the middle of 2015, with limited sight of this deteriorating position and based on the best information, indicators and forecasts available at that time. The Treasury & Resources Department sought to take a prudent approach to budgeting for 2016 and to ensure that a balanced position was delivered.

The fact that I am now advising this Assembly that, after the first quarter of the year, the projection for 2016 is for a deficit in the order of £10 million to £15 million once again demonstrates the challenges faced in building a Budget using information which is, particularly for Income Tax, largely historic and inherently difficult to project and predict.

Once again, the main reason for the deterioration is weakness in our revenues. At this point in the year, with – and I must emphasise – limited data from only one quarter to support the Income Tax forecasts, we are prudently using the 2015 outturn as a basis for the estimates for the 2016 year-end position, which are supported by the limited in-year information to date that we do have.

The current forecasts show a deterioration in Income Tax of some £5 million to £8 million against the budgeted position. In addition, customs duties and document duty were also lagging against expectations in the first three months of the year which would translate into a Budget shortfall of some £2 million to £3 million.

The forecast deficit in 2016 is not entirely as a result of a deterioration in revenues. Health & Social Care services are forecasting an overspend again this year despite the significant increase in budget approved by the Assembly in 2015. If this trend is not arrested it could translate into a net overspend of between £2 million and £4 million. The expenditure pressures arise from two key areas: an on-going reliance on expensive agency staff and increased off-Island referrals.

Sir, the new Committee for Health & Social Care has, we understand, been fully briefed on this position and measures are being actively developed and put in place to seek to address the financial position and arrest the decline in financial performance in the financial year.

But this is not a problem for the Committee for Health & Social Care to solve alone. The Policy & Resources Committee will work closely with Health & Social Care to provide the requisite support.

Sir, it is my understanding that the President for the Committee for Health & Social Care intends, with your permission, to make a Statement to this Assembly on 29th June to update

Members on the year to date position, what actions have been taken to reverse the trend and what actions are planned for the rest of this year.

75 The Policy & Resources Committee has already spent considerable time seeking to understand the 2016 financial position. We – neither ‘we’ as Policy & Resources or ‘we’ as the States as whole – can sit on our hands and watch this situation unfold without taking action. Therefore, the Committee has also been exploring the options available to ensure that the Budget can be balanced in-year, which is absolutely essential as the limited reserves previously held within the
80 General Revenue Account Reserve were exhausted in 2015.

I can, therefore, advise that a series of actions are being taken to deliver a balanced in-year position, in addition to the work – *in addition* to the work – underway by the Committee for Health & Social Care Services.

85 Firstly, the Civil Service Leadership Team has put in place formal controls over *all* vacancies with immediate effect from Monday, across all offices. These controls require a thorough review of the justification for filling each vacancy, along with consideration of any other options for delivering the role or service. Each must also be reviewed by the relevant Chief Secretary. The impact of this measure will be tracked so we can assess its effect.

90 Secondly, in tandem with these vacancy controls, Chief Secretaries will also be reviewing all overtime and, through their line management, ensuring that overtime is only authorised where it is absolutely necessary or critical

95 Thirdly, the Policy & Resources Committee is also reviewing measures to control the use of consultants, except where essential. Such measures were recommended by the Treasury & Resources Department to Policy Council at the beginning of the last term. At that time, Departments resisted this control and the measures recommended at that time were not adopted. We cannot afford to allow that outcome this time.

Fourthly, all Chief Secretaries are carrying out reviews of their expenditure to identify and realise savings in-year, including through deferral of expenditure to future years where this is not deemed of any detriment.

100 Fifthly, all Chief Secretaries will also be asked to review their routine capital plans to reprioritise and reschedule projects wherever possible.

Sixthly, in respect of the Budget Reserve, the Policy & Resources Committee does not intend to approve any further requests for funding this year, either capital or revenue, other than in the most urgent of cases.

105 Finally, my Committee has formally approached the States’ Trading Supervisory Board to request that it considers making a return of surplus capital to general revenue in 2016 from the non-incorporated trading entities.

110 All of these measures, taken together, have the potential to materially reduce the deficit in the year by between £5 million and £10 million. If this does not prove sufficient to balance the books, then there will also be an option to reduce the allocation of funding to the Capital Reserve.

Some of the measures set out will inevitably result in deferring expenditure from 2016 to future years. This will be essential if we are to balance the books. However, this must be done sensitively and with regard to the growing pressures we can now see in 2017 and beyond.

115 As set out in my President’s foreword to the Annual Accounts, it has become clear that there is more to the deficit in our fiscal position than cyclical conditions and the inherent lags in revenues such as Income Tax. It is likely that there is a structural element to the deficit, notwithstanding – as I set out at the beginning of this Statement – a fundamentally sound real economy which is delivering modest year-on-year growth and continuing high levels of labour participation.

120 So why is there a mismatch between the performance of our real economy and that of our public finances? The local workforce has already decreased in size by more than 2% over the last four years, and this is set to continue. As increasing numbers of our population move into retirement. Two percent equates to 750 fewer people actively working in our economy and 750 people, based on median earnings, means the loss of around £23 million a year of productive capacity. This is the structural headwind we now face and this only goes to highlight the

125 vulnerability of relying on such a narrow tax base which is in structural decline as a result of our
ageing population.

This same ageing population will increasingly result in pressure on our services and lead to
increased costs, unless Public Service Reform is successfully delivered. There will, therefore, be a
need for continuous improvement and efficiency, both now and in the future, alongside larger
130 transformation measures – which we should look to accelerate where possible – to ensure that
these pressures can be mitigated and services sustainably delivered.

In order to return to Budget sustainability, this Assembly as a whole will need to take action.
This is not just a problem for Policy & Resources; this is a problem for all of us. Alongside
measures to manage expenditure, not least through Public Service Reform, and to broaden the tax
135 base, it will be essential to maximise revenues from the existing tax base. However, of course, it is
imperative that Government must also do everything we can to grow our tax base by growing our
economy and removing all obstacles to this. There is a need to invest for the future, which was
recognised by the last Assembly through the establishment of Economic Development and
Transformation and Transition Funds, and such investment will undoubtedly help tackle some of
140 the structural issues.

Sir, the Policy & Resources Committee has started work on the 2017 Budget and aims to
propose a package of measures to the States – and it will need to be a package, as there is no
single solution – which will start to deliver sustainable public finances for 2017 and the longer
term.

145 I have said on many occasions that this will not be easy and will inevitably involve making
difficult decisions. For example, it will simply not be possible to make any additional funding
available above the baseline in the next couple of years. Members and the community will have to
be patient in any desire to introduce new services. It is unlikely, for example, that in the short term
we will be able to fund the reforms agreed following the work of the Social Welfare Benefits
150 Investigation Committee; similarly, we are also unlikely to be able to deliver tax cuts by way of
increased tax allowances or new tax breaks. The delivery of reform, economic growth and
increased revenues will have to take priority in the short term.

Sir, I would like to briefly talk about the importance of our assets in contributing to a
sustainable future.

155 The States holds significant investment, property and trading assets which all have a role to
play in the management of public finances.

With regard to trading assets, we must continue to explore options for maximising returns. The
Treasury & Resources Department's Supervisory Subcommittee worked closely with the
incorporated companies to explore return opportunities, both of capital and revenue. We hope
160 and believe that the States' Trading Supervisory Board will be able to continue this work and to
explore further the opportunities across the unincorporated trading assets. In the short term, as
previously mentioned, we hope that a return of *some* surplus capital to general revenue can be
secured this year. We also hope to see these assets delivering valuable income and capital
receipts over the medium term.

165 The States of Guernsey bond, issued in 2014, should facilitate some of these opportunities.
Some £135 million of the bond issue has already been lent on to our trading assets, but we will be
making every effort to increase that amount over the remainder of 2016. The bond will work best
for Guernsey once it is fully lent on.

During 2015, the investment returns in a very difficult market on the un-lent proceeds were not
170 sufficient by around £5 million to fully cover the coupon payment on this portion of the bond.
However, this figure does not, of course, take account of any overall savings in borrowing costs
experienced by the public sector as a whole. Even if only a modest 1% per annum were being
saved on the cost of borrowing, that would equate to £1.25 million a year on the funds already
lent on.

175 The model established by the Bond Management Subcommittee will ensure – *will ensure* – that
any loans from the proceeds *always* cover the coupon requirements to ensure that the issue can

180 be serviced fully and repaid in full without recourse to general revenue over the long term. However, investment performance ebbs and flows, and over the 32-year life there will inevitably be periods of investment return shortfall on any un-lent balances which will be compensated by excess returns in other years. For example, in the first four months of 2016, the long-term reserves have earned approximately 2.85% and the medium-term reserves have earned 1.33%. This equates to over 6% per annum, exceeding the 3.625% a year coupon and costs by £4.5 million on the un-lent balances on an annualised basis.

185 The Policy & Resources Committee acknowledges the importance of a continued focus on managing the bond proceeds and has therefore established a sub group to replace the previous Bond Management Subcommittee.

190 The States have over £2 billion of financial assets invested which underpin the Social Security contributory benefits, the States employees' pension fund, the Core Investment Reserve and various other reserves and funds. The beginning of 2016 has seen significant volatility in the markets, but, as already mentioned, has delivered solid returns. With the funds under the control of the Policy & Resources Committee, as previously announced, an allocation has recently been made to a local manager investment pool and I am pleased to report that we have now completed the first phase in investment, with £50 million now placed with five local managers. This initiative accesses the talents of the local fund management industry and ensures that we keep as much revenue and business on-Island as possible.

195 The final category of assets is our properties. The importance of managing these assets for the best overall benefit of the Island has been acknowledged through Corporate Property Plans and, more recently, the Strategic Asset Management Plan. I do not intend to touch any further on this today, other than to note that those previous plans failed to get any real traction and we can no longer afford to do anything other than ensure that we do now capitalise on those assets and make them work in the best interests of the States.

200 Sir, returning to the current financial position, there remains some uncertainty around the likely extent of the shortfall in 2016, but that must not stop us from taking action. The Policy & Resources Committee is determined to do what we can, with the help and support of all other Members of this Assembly, to deliver the balanced Budget in 2016 that the States approved and equally to tackle the structural deficit in this term by finding an equilibrium between the revenues we collect from our community and the funding of the public services we deliver, while nurturing and promoting our strong and stable economy.

205 Sir, in the last term I made it a priority as Treasury Minister to ensure that Members were regularly updated about our financial position. I intend, with your permission, sir, to continue to update on the fiscal position on a quarterly basis but to broaden this, as I have today, to cover the performance of our assets, the bond and the economy.

Thank you, sir.

215 **The Bailiff:** Members of the States, I remind you there is now an opportunity for Members to ask questions of the President of the Policy & Resources Committee arising out of that Statement – although he is not obliged to give any answer that might be inaccurate or misleading. The period of questions shall not exceed 15 minutes, although that may be extended at my discretion. I remind you that each individual question shall not exceed one minute in duration and the answer there too shall not exceed one and a half minutes in duration.

Deputy Roffey.

Deputy Roffey: Thank you, sir.

225 My question relates to the explosion in revenue expenditure on Health & Social Care both during 2015 and the first quarter of 2016 highlighted.

Does not the fact that this happened show that the previous policy of extreme restraint was unrealistic and, as this brought down directly one HSSD board and was the underlying cause for bringing down another, albeit not the headline reason, does this Assembly not owe an apology

230 both to former Deputy Hunter Adam and Deputy Mark Dorey and their respective boards for the way they were treated which bears no relation to the way that area of expenditure has been treated over the last year or two?

The Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

235 **Deputy St Pier:** I am not sure the latter part of the question, sir, is directly related to the Statement. In relation to seeking an apology on behalf of this Assembly as a whole, I am not sure that I am in a position necessarily to provide that.

240 In relation to the core of the question, sir, I think we need to focus on where we are and what we are going to do about it, rather than spending a lot of time analysing what has happened in the past. I think there has clearly been a lot of history, there has been a lot of turnover at a political level, there has been a lot of turnover at a staff level. However, a lot of work has been done in terms of the baselining of the expenditure in that Department through the joint work of the Health & Social Services Department, the Treasury & Resources Department in the last term, working with BDO. We now need to take that work and use it to best effect to transform the service and to ensure that we can deliver the services in the most cost-effective way.

The Bailiff: Deputy Gollop.

250 **Deputy Gollop:** Sir, as a relative veteran of this Assembly, I can recall the era of the Civil Service board and of the earlier scrutiny committees that questioned the staff number limitation policy. Is the President aware that that policy was abandoned for good reason and it would appear to me today that the Statement suggested it will be re-implemented as policy without debate by this Chamber? Am I correct in my assumption?

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

Deputy St Pier: No, sir, Deputy Gollop is not correct in his assumption. This is not the reintroduction of a staff limitation policy.

260 I think the flaws of such a policy which is a blanket imposition of limitations on the number of staff have been recognised. This is simply putting in processes that ensure greater oversight and control and questioning of all vacancies and all offers made; in other words, to really ensure that they are properly challenged throughout the line of management before any appointments are made.

265 So it is recognising that appointments *do* need to be made. Having a blanking limitation is not an appropriate mechanism. It may, for example, be more appropriate to take on two lower cost employees to replace one higher cost employee and a staff limitation policy would skew behaviours. So this is very definitely not a reintroduction of that policy.

The Bailiff: Deputy Parkinson.

270 **Deputy Parkinson:** Yes, sir, would the President agree with me that today's Statement demonstrates that the fiscal policy of the States is failing, that it is not suited to the economic and political environment in which we live and that it needs urgently to be reviewed?

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

Deputy St Pier: Sir, I think what it demonstrates is perhaps what was at the heart of the Personal Tax, Pensions and Benefits Review: that we know that we have structural changes going on in our economy and, as a result, in our tax base, and those need to be addressed. I think

280 perhaps what is apparent is that some of that is now coming home perhaps a little earlier than we had expected at the time that work was undertaken.

But I absolutely agree with Deputy Parkinson that the structural challenges which do appear now to be apparent in our public finances must be addressed during this term and that is something which the Policy & Resources Committee are unanimously now resolved, working with
285 this Assembly to ensure that it is addressed during this term.

The Bailiff: Deputy De Lisle.

Deputy De Lisle: Sir, first it was £20 million deficit and then it was £23 million, now it is
290 £24.5 million. What next?

Deputy St Pier says that he is going to look at a £5 million to £10 million saving, but I do not see this addressing the £24.5 million deficit, with uncertainty in 2016 and a promised balanced Budget within that time. So will that not require – and I asked Deputy St Pier – real austerity, living within our means and change with respect to –

295

The Bailiff: Your minute is up.

Deputy De Lisle: – the corporate policy?

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

Deputy De Lisle: The corporate tax policy, that is.

Deputy St Pier: Sir, Deputy De Lisle is confusing apples with pears. The £24½ million is the
305 deficit which is now finalised for 2015. That is the deficit which has occurred and there is nothing we can do about that now.

The £10 million to £15 million is – at this stage in the year, based on the first quarter's information – the anticipated outcome if no action is taken; and that is why Policy & Resources – as I said in my Statement – have listed seven actions which are being taken – we will consider
310 others – in order to ensure that we do deliver a balanced Budget for 2016. We will obviously be in a better position to review the state of affairs after the second quarter, which particularly includes a lot of assessments after Income Tax, and I will obviously return to this Assembly in September with an update – again, with your consent, sir – which will ensure that this Assembly is better informed on our position at that stage.

315

The Bailiff: Deputy Dorey.

Deputy Dorey: Thank you, Mr Bailiff.

The Fiscal Framework says that average capital expenditure should be 3% of GDP. It also says
320 that the identified deficits will be identified within five years of their appearance and that measures to counter identified structural deficits are agreed within two years of their identification.

You have seen the Annual Fiscal Review – we have been running a deficit now for nine years. Since 2006 we have been below 3%, apart from one year, in terms of capital expenditure. Does he
325 not agree that the short-term measures are totally inadequate and some radical changes need to be done, which T&R previously did not do and now P&R needs to address?

The Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

330 **Deputy St Pier:** Certainly I do agree that the conditions of the Fiscal Framework have not been met and we do need to take action in order to ensure that we redress that position. I have made it

very clear that that is Policy & Resources' intention in this term, working with the Members of this Assembly to ensure it happens.

335 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Fallaize.

Deputy Fallaize: Thank you, sir.

Deputy St Pier mentioned economic growth. Since 2009 our economy has grown in real terms by more than 10%, and yet the size of the deficit is essentially the same as it was then. It is quite clear that it would take spectacular levels of economic growth for economic growth alone to deal with the deficit. That being so, will his Committee commit, when they come to the States with their Budget later this year, to propose measures which would raise additional revenue as well as bearing on the expenditure of the States?

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

Deputy St Pier: Sir, there is, as I said in my Statement, clearly a mismatch between the economic performance and the state of our public finances, and I think much of that is attributable to the structure of our tax base, which I think speaks much to Deputy Parkinson's question.

I am not going to commit on behalf of my Committee – clearly, not having consulted with them. However, I think it is inconceivable, in view of the situation that we are faced with, that as part of the package of measures that I referred to there will not be some revenue measures. In particular, for example, the States made a decision through the Personal Tax, Pensions and Benefits Review to look at moving to a '20 means 20' type system, and again that is something that has been actively worked on since the Personal Tax, Pensions and Benefits Review, and so I would consider that, for example, to be one of the measures that may well be brought forward.

360 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Laurie Queripel.

Deputy Laurie Queripel: Thank you, sir.

Can Deputy St Pier give an undertaking now that finding efficiencies will be prioritised above service costs, including a thorough review of pay costs, bearing in mind that the numbers of staff in the top pay bracket have approximately doubled in two years or so?

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

Deputy St Pier: Sir, again, my Statement made it very clear that efficiency is absolutely central – efficiency and, of course, transformation – and this is critical. We obviously have embarked on the Public Service Reform Programme. It is envisaged to be a 10-year programme. In my view, that will need to be concertinaed (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) in order to accelerate the delivery of the transformation of our public services in the most cost-effective way to avoid service cuts but deliver the services which the community require.

375 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

Deputy Gollop: The President rightly points out that economic growth and development of the economy is a key priority for the Island and the Assembly, but how is it possible for Policy & Resources at this stage to define that as the main goal in comparison with social objectives before we have completed our workshops or debate or overall plan for the term?

The Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

385 **Deputy St Pier:** Sir, I think Deputy Gollop, and indeed other Members of the Assembly, all of
us, need to distinguish between the short, medium and long term. Clearly, the long-term plan on
where we hope the Island will be in 20 years' time is the subject of the first workshop; our
immediate and short-term fiscal constraints are a separate issue that needs to be addressed; and
then we have the medium-term transition from where we are now to where we want to get to.
390 That is, of course, the purpose of the whole Policy & Resources planning process, which makes it
even more essential that we deliver that in the most effective way, because that is what will enable
us to properly prioritise in a way that we have never done before.

The Bailiff: Deputy Roffey.

395 **Deputy Roffey:** Deputy St Pier mentioned that the 20 means 20 policy may be one way of
stemming the projected deficit. Does that mean that 20% remains sacrosanct as the top level of
personal tax, as far as his Committee is concerned, or would they consider increasing the level of
the tax rate for the highest earners?

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

Deputy St Pier: Sir, Deputy Roffey obviously was not a Member of the last Assembly, which
considered that particular question at length through the Personal Tax, Pensions and Benefits
Review. The net conclusion of that lengthy debate, in the face of several amendments that were
405 seeking to perhaps change the basic rate that has been with us for so long, was that actually we
can change the effective rates of taxation for high earners without necessarily needing to tinker
with that rate, and of course one way of doing that is in relation to the withdrawal of allowances
and so on.

410 So I think my view is that the Policy & Resources Committee should work with the extant
Resolutions of the States through that Personal Tax, Pensions and Benefits Review process and
see where that takes us in terms of our revenue position before considering other measures of
any kind.

The Bailiff: Deputy De Lisle.

415 **Deputy De Lisle:** Sir, to address the deficit will Deputy St Pier and his Committee be
considering further changes to the corporate tax policy?

The Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

420 **Deputy St Pier:** Sir, again, this matter has been considered at length on many occasions and
the policy of the previous Treasury & Resources Committee/Department, and indeed the Policy &
Resources Committee, now is of course to continue to keep the corporate tax policy under review
in the light of international developments – which, as Deputy De Lisle will know, are many – and
425 to act accordingly. So that is what we will continue to do.

The Bailiff: Deputy Lowe.

Deputy Lowe: Thank you.

430 I would like to thank the President for a very clear message this morning. I think it is perfect
timing at the start of a new States that we can all play our part and ask questions and make sure it
is not a need or want when things come to Committees.

435 However, could I have assurance from him that he will work very closely with the Committees
before he proposes that there is a *carte blanche* percentage across all Committees for savings
when other Departments previously have made an enormous amount of savings? It is grossly

unfair, and I am very conscious of the frontline services which we provide for Home Affairs that will be taken into consideration and work closely with you to make sure we do as many savings as possible.

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

Deputy St Pier: I thank Deputy Lowe for that question, sir.

I think, as I emphasised in my Statement, this is not a problem for Policy & Resources at the moment. We have to work together on this, so I absolutely can give the commitment that it is
445 Policy & Resources' intent to work closely with all Committees to try and find a solution which meets the needs of the entire States. But, as I said, it will require difficult decisions.

I have to say I think the intent of the new States very much is to embrace that new method of working. I welcome that and I do hope that it is capable of surviving these kinds of early and very
450 important tests.

The Bailiff: We are coming towards the end of the 15 minutes. Is there anybody who has not asked any question who would like to do so?

Yes, Deputy Lester Queripel.

455 **Deputy Lester Queripel:** Thank you, sir.

The previous Assembly put aside £25 million to pursue the public service reform initiative over a 10-year period, and the CEO is creating new roles, which I presume is coming out of that fund to pursue the initiative.

Can the President tell me, please, does the CEO have complete autonomy to do that, continue
460 creating new roles at the top of the tree, or does he have to run that by the P&R Committee first?

The Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

Deputy St Pier: Sir, no, I can reassure Deputy Lester Queripel that that £25 million
465 Transformation Transition Fund is subject to the very clear rules that were set out by this Assembly in terms of access to it, and so there is absolutely no delegated authority on the part of the CEO to use that to fund that which he would wish without following the clear authorities that were set out by this Assembly through a series of Resolutions at the time of that particular budget.

470

The Bailiff: The 15 minutes have expired, but I see there are two Members who wish to ask further questions – I will extend it by another five minutes.

Deputy Parkinson.

475 **Deputy Parkinson:** I would be grateful if Deputy St Pier could clarify one aspect of his Statement. I think I understood him to say that, of the deficit of £24½ million which he is reporting for 2015, some £5 million were the carrying costs of the bond, which were not covered by the income on the sums raised.

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

Deputy St Pier: Sir, yes, I did refer to the £5 million, which of course is managed through the Bond Management Reserve.

485 **The President:** Deputy Dorey.

Deputy Dorey: My question follows on: does he now agree that the timing and the amount of borrowing was a very costly mistake in relation to the bond?

490 **Two Members:** Hear, hear.

The Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

495 **Deputy St Pier:** Sir, I think the decisions that the Assembly made as a whole at the time that the bond was issued were in light of the information that was available at that time, including the expectations of those that were likely to need borrowings, including of course Guernsey Electricity for cable repairs, and of course in terms of the market conditions and interest rates available at that time.

500 The Assembly, in my view, made the best decision based on the best information available at the time, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Brehaut.

505 **Deputy Brehaut:** Sorry, sir, I just ask this question and declare an interest, and make it clear that my wife is a nurse.

We know that Health & Social Care have a shortage of nurses and are largely dependent on agency staff. It also means that long-serving members of the former HSSD who have moved forward into Health & Social Care have to work excessive hours sometimes just to deliver, because of the shortage of nursing staff. Does he not have concerns that what is effectively an overtime ban could have undesired consequences, if we are not too careful, and of course introduce another element of risk into the clinical environment?

510

The Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

515 **Deputy St Pier:** Sir, Deputy Brehaut raises a very good point and I think it would probably not be unique, necessarily, to that particular Committee. I would expect that that is one of the issues which line management and chief secretaries would be taking into account as they consider the need for need and use overtime.

520 So this is not – again, I emphasise, in a similar vein to Deputy Gollop’s question in relation to the staff limitation policy – a blanket ban on overtime; it is merely imposing a greater level of oversight and control to try and restrict that which is not strictly essential. Where it is strictly essential – and Deputy Brehaut may have identified some examples – then I would expect it to be undertaken.

525 I also, as I am sure Members do, will be looking forward to the President of Health & Social Care’s Statement at the end of the month explaining the circumstances and what action has been taken in that office to ensure that they can do what they can to redress the trend.

The Bailiff: I see no one else rising.

**Plans should the UK referendum result in a decision to leave the EU –
Statement by the Lead Member for External and Constitutional Affairs
on Policy & Resources Committee**

530 **The Bailiff:** We will move on to the next Statement, which is to be delivered by Deputy Le Tocq in his capacity as the lead Member for External & Constitutional Affairs on the Policy & Resources Committee.

Deputy Le Tocq.

535 **Deputy Le Tocq:** Yes, it is a bit of a mouthful, sir, isn't it! I am quite happy for you to refer to me as the *Secrétaire aux Affaires Extérieures*.

The Bailiff: Thank you! (*Laughter*)

540 **Deputy Le Tocq:** Sir, the UK is currently debating whether it should remain a member of the European Union and will be holding referendum on this question on 23rd June 2016.

As Members will be aware, our relationship with the EU is governed by Protocol 3 to the UK Treaty of Accession. This allows for the Islands to be part of the customs territory of the EU, and effectively underpins the free movement of goods between Guernsey and the UK and the rest of the EU.

545 For the majority of the trading relationships that Guernsey has with the EU, such as in financial services, we are treated as a third country. This means, in broad terms, that we, like other third countries, need to meet agreed criteria in order to be able to access those markets.

550 The States of Guernsey has maintained its longstanding position; it is not seeking to change its relationship with the EU. It is not advocating that the UK remain or leave the EU; that is a matter for the UK to decide.

555 However, a UK exit from the EU will impact on the Bailiwick of Guernsey. We stand to lose our Protocol 3 relationship, which of course may be replicated. In terms of our main trading relationships as a third country, for example in financial services, these relationships will remain intact as they are not part of Protocol 3. Again, in broad terms, Guernsey is a third country now and will be a third country no matter what the UK decides to do in respect of its own EU relationship.

560 The potential change for Guernsey will be less substantial than the potential change for the UK. The Crown Dependencies are relatively stable in respect of their EU relationships compared to the UK. Much work has already been undertaken by the Office of the Policy & Resources Committee and its predecessor, the Policy Council, to understand the impact on Guernsey should the UK decide to leave the EU, and how to mitigate that impact.

565 The outcome of this work suggests that there will be a need for the States of Guernsey to work with the other Crown Dependencies to negotiate with the UK to ensure its best interests are served in four main ways. These are: firstly, in the UK-EU exit agreement itself; secondly, in the new UK-EU trading agreement, including the replicated or revised Protocol 3; and thirdly, by ensuring we safeguard the constitutional and trading relationships with the UK; finally, and fourthly, by looking for opportunities in any new UK trading relationships with the rest of the world, including for example extension of the UK's membership of the World Trade Organisation.

570 It is anticipated that if the UK decides to leave the EU then the process under the EU treaties provides for a two-year window of time by which the UK should negotiate an exit agreement. Whilst that gives some time for the negotiations set out above, it is not a lot of time.

575 In order to ensure that the Policy & Resources Committee has the necessary mandate and that our Island and external stakeholders know our position, it is recommended that a policy letter be prepared in the event that the UK decides to leave the EU. The policy letter can then be lodged as soon as possible after such a decision is taken by the UK Government. This approach will be aligned to the approach taken in Jersey and in the Isle of Man, and will be done in full consultation with the States of Alderney and the Chief Pleas of Sark.

580 So, in order to ensure a timely debate, it may be necessary to convene a special States' meeting before the meeting to be held on 7th September. If a meeting before September is desirable then it will be recommended that this meeting should be held on 20th July 2016, before the States' school term ends on 21st July. If this is necessary, then I will bring this matter before the Assembly again when it meets on 29th June in order to convene such a meeting.

585 Sir, I hope the Assembly take this Statement and the early notice as a sign that we are well placed to face the challenges if the UK make a decision to exit the EU, and that any impact may be minimised if that situation occurs.

Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Members, we have another period of 15 minutes for questions, if anybody wishes to ask any questions of Deputy Le Tocq.

590 Deputy Gollop.

Deputy Gollop: One area of possible concern, or at least work that I believe External Affairs need to undertake, is concerning, should a Brexit vote be taken by the UK, the position of European nationals who reside in Guernsey. Has due consideration been given to grandfather/grandmother rights that their position would in no way be adversely affected by such a change of status?

595

The Bailiff: *Monsieur le Secretaire aux Affaires Exterieures* to reply! *(Laughter)*

600 **Deputy Le Tocq:** Monsieur le Bailli, yes, in the sense this work and the potential options available in the potential scenarios was actually begun when I was Deputy Chief Minister and then continued when I was Chief Minister. The External Affairs Secretariat is already working because much of this will impact not only the other Crown Dependencies but the UK itself, because there has been such a long period of time where the circumstances that Deputy Gollop depicts have existed that it is going to need to be addressed by all the parties I have mentioned before. So we are already in communication on those issues.

605

The Bailiff: Anyone else? No, there is no one. That, therefore, concludes the period of time for Statements.

Questions for Oral Answer

COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYMENT & SOCIAL SECURITY

Equal Marriage Law – Progress

610 **The Bailiff:** We move on to Question Time, and the first Question is to be asked by Deputy Roffey of the President of the Committee for Employment & Social Security.
Deputy Roffey.

Deputy Roffey: Thank you, Mr Bailiff.
615 Will the President of the Committee for Employment & Social Security please update this Assembly on progress with the Equal Marriage Law and when she expects it to be possible for same-sex couples to get married in Guernsey?

The Bailiff: The President of the Committee for Employment & Social Security, Deputy Le Clerc, will reply.
620

Deputy Le Clerc: Thank you, sir.

Mr Bailiff, I am grateful for the assistance of Deputy Le Tocq in preparing this response to the Question from Deputy Roffey.

625 Although the mandate for equality is now the responsibility of the Committee for Employment & Social Security, these are very early days. We have been pleased to accept the offer from Deputy Le Tocq to continue to lead on the matter of same-sex marriage in order to bring the legislation to the States.

630 I am pleased to advise that, following the States' decision in December 2015 to introduce legislation enabling same-sex marriage to take place in Guernsey, drafting of the primary legislation is now complete and the draft project will be considered by my Committee shortly. The earliest opportunity for the draft project to be considered by the States is 21st September and, with Deputy Le Tocq's assistance, we are working to this deadline.

635 Assuming that the States approves the legislation as drafted, it will then have to be submitted to the Privy Council to receive Royal Sanction, a process that is likely to take several months, following which a commencement ordinance, together with the necessary subordinate legislation, will be taken to the States. Clearly, the exact timescale for the introduction of the legislation is dependent to a degree on factors outside our control; but, assuming all goes well, we would hope that the legislation might be operative by mid-2017.

640 Thank you.

The Bailiff: Are there any questions arising from that statement? No.

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – Signing

The Bailiff: In that case, we will move on to the next Question, which Deputy Lester Queripel will ask of the President of the Committee for Health & Social Care.

645

Deputy Lester Queripel: Sir, before I ask my Question, can I ask your permission to stand through the whole of my involvement in Question Time, please? I am struggling to sit.

The Bailiff: You wish permission to sit, do you? Oh, no, you wish to stand through it, and not sit. Yes, absolutely.

650

Deputy Lester Queripel: Thank you, sir, I appreciate that.

655 Sir, my question is Guernsey is one of the few places in the world that has not signed up to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. I believe the Office for Health & Social Care is in the process of submitting an application for us to sign up to the Convention, so can the President tell me, please, what stage we are at with actually submitting that application?

The Bailiff: The President of the Committee for Health & Social Care, Deputy Soulsby, will reply.

660

Deputy Soulsby: Sir, in February 2016 the States of Deliberation acknowledged the commitment within the Children and Young People's Plan to sign up to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and reflect its principles in everything that is done. The application for this Convention is being co-ordinated by the Policy & Resources Committee as a matter of priority. Good progress has been made and the Committee is on track to submit the application by the end of 2016.

665

670 Staff at the Office of the Policy & Resources Committee are working collaboratively with the Law Officers and colleagues across the appropriate public services to put together the required paperwork, including the compilation of a compliance matrix. This is a method agreed by the Ministry of Justice and Crown Dependencies to demonstrate compliance with an international convention. The principles of the Convention are applied throughout the Children and Young People's Plan and its identified actions, as well as demonstrated through our existing legislation, policies and practices. Effort has gone into ensuring that the principles are integrated into business as usual. As a result, there are no foreseen issues with the application once the
675 considerable work is done to put the case together for submission.

The Bailiff: Do you have a supplementary question, Deputy Lester Queripel?

Deputy Lester Queripel: I do, sir, please.

680 When I received the Answer to my Question yesterday, I looked back at the *Hansard* report of the Scrutiny Committee Review into the Implementation of the Children Law undertaken by Prof. Kathleen Marshall, and in that report Prof. Marshall said we do not have to wait until we comply with every part of the Law until we submit our application. Is that why it is taking so long to submit our application, because we are waiting until we comply with every part of the Law?
685

The Bailiff: Deputy Soulsby.

Deputy Soulsby: Sir, no, I can confirm the reason why it is taking so long is because it is a very complex process, as you can imagine, dealing with trying to come to support a convention and to be able to comply with it.
690

At the moment there is a draft in process of about 80 pages that is needed to be put together. We do not have one single dedicated resource, we have just got part of a resource, but we do believe that progress is continuing very well and we hope to be able to get the application submitted by September this year.
695

The Bailiff: Do you have another supplementary, Deputy Lester Queripel?

Deputy Lester Queripel: I do, please, sir. Thank you.

700 The fact that Guernsey is one of only three places left in the world to sign up to the Convention reflects badly on the Island.

The President said in her response that this is being treated as a priority. Can she give me an assurance that this will remain a priority and not be put on the backburner like the Disability and Inclusion Strategy was?

705 **Deputy Soulsby:** Sir, no, I think the difference here between this and the Disability Inclusion Strategy is the lack of resources full stop. For the Disability Inclusion Strategy no resources were identified; here we have identified resource. It is a part resource, but as I say, good progress is being made and we expect to be able to submit the application in September this year.

710 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

Deputy Gollop: The President mentions the part resource. Bearing in mind what we have heard today from the Policy & Resources President, I hope and trust the new Health & Social Care Board will reallocate essential resources to the development of these policies away from purely operational management, if at all possible. Are you able to say that review will be undertaken as soon as possible?
715

The Bailiff: Deputy Soulsby.

720 **Deputy Soulsby:** I think the key phrase there is 'if at all possible'. I was surprised, actually, when I first got into the Health & Social Services Department at the time at the complete lack of policy research officers within the Department.

What I would say is the current Committee is very conscious of setting out priorities and understanding what priorities we are going to have to set out in this early term through the next four years, and we are putting time aside to ensure that we can do exactly that.

COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Hotel bookings – Impact re problems experienced by Condor

725 **The Bailiff:** If there is no one else, we will move on to the next Question, which Deputy Lester Queripel will ask of the President of the Committee for Economic Development.

Deputy Lester Queripel: Thank you, sir. I have two Questions.

730 I recently received a report from an hotelier telling me that their bookings are well down this year due to all the problems experienced by Condor. Can the President tell me whether or not his Committee are working with local hoteliers to address that issue?

735 **The Bailiff:** The President of the Committee for Economic Development, Deputy Ferbrache, will reply.

Deputy Ferbrache: I am grateful to you and I am particularly grateful to the questioner for his Question.

740 Of course my Committee are aware of the concerns that have been widely expressed by hoteliers, other accommodation providers, residents and indeed visitors about Condor's performance. We are concerned.

745 It is recognised that 2015 was not, euphemistically to say, a good year for Condor. In fact, it would be unrealistic to expect that that has not had a negative impact for this year. That needs to be addressed both now, in an early course, and for the foreseeable future. Thus we, together with the Jersey authorities, are working and will continue to work with Condor to seek to ensure that there is provided a robust and reliable ferry service. We believe that there has been *some* – and I emphasise the word 'some' – standard of service improvement since this April, but of course that is a very short period of time and the improvements will need to continue and in good measure to ensure that confidence in the ferry service is enhanced over the busy summer months.

750 We review our visitor numbers on a regular basis and naturally work with the tourist industry and other providers to help us understand and interpret visitor trends. Together with Jersey, we have engaged with Condor on a *comprehensive* – and I emphasise that word – service review, due for completion this autumn. This will involve consultation with a wide range of users of the ferry service and it will gather essential information and opinions to help shape the future of the Island's ferry service.

755 The Committee will work towards signing an uprating agreement with Condor, but we have no anticipation that this will be until the outcome of the review is known, which we intend to publish once its provisions are completed.

760 **The Bailiff:** Do you have a supplementary arising from that Question, or do you wish to ask your second Question?

Deputy Lester Queripel: No, I will ask my second Question, please, sir.

The Bailiff: Ask your second Question – I see no other supplementaries.

765 **Deputy Lester Queripel:** The Economic & Development Committee are mandated to secure the provision of air and sea links to and from the Bailiwick.

Can the President please tell me whether or not he and his Committee will be seeking to work with Jersey and the ports in the South of England to establish whether or not there is any interest or merit in all of the jurisdictions working together to introduce our own ferry service and dispense with the services of Condor?
770

The Bailiff: The President, Deputy Ferbrache, will reply.

Deputy Ferbrache: The simple answer to that is no, we have not done that yet because I have already referred to the fact there is a comprehensive review and we are not seeking to anticipate that review.
775

Also, we bear in mind the comments of the President of the Policy & Resources Committee given just before about, again, my word – and I use it decorously – the ‘parlous’ state of Guernsey’s finances at the moment.
780

The Bailiff: Do you have a supplementary?

Deputy Lester Queripel: I have no supplementary question, sir, thank you.

785 **The Bailiff:** Does anybody else have any supplementary questions? No?

In that case, that concludes Question Time and we will move on to Elections and Appointments, Greffier.

Billet d’État XVII

ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Election of Members of the Scrutiny Management Committee – Election adjourned

Article I.

The States are asked:

To elect two voting members of the Scrutiny Management Committee who shall not be members of the States, to serve until the 30th June 2020, in accordance with Rule 16 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation, as set out in Section 1 of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees.

The Senior Deputy Greffier: Billet d’État XVII, Article I – Proposition VI, Election of Members of the Scrutiny Management Committee.
790

The Bailiff: These are to elect two voting members to the Scrutiny Management Committee who shall not be Members of the States, to serve a term of office until 30th June 2020.

Does the President of the Scrutiny Management Committee wish to nominate anyone?

795 **Deputy Green:** Yes, sir, I would like to nominate Mrs Gill Morris and Mr Richard Digard for the two non-States' members of the Scrutiny Management Committee.

The Bailiff: Gill Morris and Richard Digard. Have you circulated those CVs?

800 **Deputy Green:** No, sir.

The Bailiff: There is a requirement under Rules, but let's just see if they are seconded. Are they seconded?

805 **Deputy Roffey:** Seconded, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Roffey is seconding.

Let's just see: are there any other nominations? No? Well unless anybody requires to have any information on them, I will just put those two straight to the vote.

810

Deputy Green: Sir, if it is of assistance to the Assembly I am happy to give some information in respect of both candidates. I apologise if it was a requirement for the circulation of CVs, but I am more than happy to address the –

815 **The Bailiff:** Yes, I believe that is in the new Rules. It came into the old Rules and I think it is in the new Rules, yes.

But if you wish to just briefly outline their background?

Deputy Green: I think, sir, in the circumstances it would be helpful.

820 Yes, sir, the Scrutiny Management Committee formally advertised in the *Guernsey Press* for expressions of interest in the two non-States' members' roles on the Committee and we were very pleased to receive a fairly considerable response from many capable Islanders – I believe a total of 16 formal applications were received.

825 After conducting a transparent and open process including numerous interviews with the candidates and after much careful consideration, I might add, we would like to nominate Mrs Gill Morris and Mr Richard Digard as those two non-States' members.

Mrs Gill Morris served on the Public Accounts Committee of the States from 2012 to 2016, where she chaired the Audit Panel. She was also a member of the Investment Panel. She is a chartered accountant and a chartered tax adviser and is currently Director of Tax and Treasury at Specsavers Optical Group Ltd.

830

There is no doubt, sir, that Mrs Morris brings enormous financial skills and accountancy expertise and the intention would certainly be for her to chair the Audit Subcommittee within the new scrutiny framework.

835 Turning to Mr Digard: Mr Richard Digard will perhaps be best known to Members of the States as a former editor of the *Guernsey Press and Star* newspaper between 2000 and 2014. He was educated at Elizabeth College and then did a degree in computer science at Coventry University. In addition to his substantial local professional media experience he has also gained experience in the finance sector, having been marketing manager at Sun Alliance International in the mid-1990's. He is also currently a non-executive director for Roughton Insurances Limited, a captive insurance company.

840

845 Mr Digard was recently a panel member for the independent review of States' Members' pay, and he is a member of the Vale Douzaine. He undoubtedly has a deep and extensive knowledge of policy and politics within the Island. He is very clearly a strongly analytical character with an independent mind, and an independent approach to local issues which the Committee believes will complement the other skills on the Committee; and indeed his skill set will be very useful for the public hearings that we intend to conduct this term.

850 Mr Bailiff, Members of the States, many quality candidates applied to be members of the Scrutiny Management Committee but ultimately in our judgement – and the Committee is unanimous on this – we feel that Mrs Gill Morris and Mr Richard Digard are the best fit for the new scrutiny framework. We feel our nominations will bring skills that will probably complement those of the political Members; and I would be very grateful for the support of Members for those two nominations.

855 I apologise once again, sir, for the failure to circulate the CVs because that was a genuine oversight.

The Bailiff: Mr Procureur.

The Procureur: We were just going to mention declarations of interest.

860 **The Bailiff:** Yes.
Have you seen their declarations of interest?

Deputy Green: We have not had an opportunity for those to be fully completed at this time, sir.

865 **The Bailiff:** I think that is a requirement of the Rules. (**A Member:** Absolutely.) It is a requirement of the Rules.

We have two options: we either go to the vote on them or we adjourn this item, if anybody wishes to propose that it be adjourned to the next meeting to enable those to be supplied?

870 **A Member:** I propose for it to be adjourned, sir.

The Bailiff: We have a Proposition, then, that this election be adjourned to the next meeting on 29th June. Is there a seconder for that?
875 Deputy Parkinson.

Deputy Parkinson: I am happy to second that, sir.

The Bailiff: So we go to the vote, therefore, on the motion to adjourn this election of two members of the Scrutiny Management Committee to 29th June. Those in favour; those against.

Members voted Pour.

The Bailiff: That was carried. (*Laughter*)
That will be adjourned, then.

885 **Deputy Green:** Sir, thank you.

The Bailiff: Thank you.

I was going to suggest if this meeting was going to go on for any length of time it might be possible to adjourn it until later in the meeting but I suspect that we will be finishing during the course of the morning, so there will not really be time to come back this morning – so 29th June will be the earliest opportunity.

890 Greffier, we move on.

ORDINANCES

**II. The European Communities (Food and Feed Controls)
(Guernsey) Ordinance, 2016 – Approved**

Article II.

The States are asked to decide:

Whether they are of the opinion to approve the draft Ordinance entitled 'The European Communities (Food and Feed Controls) (Guernsey) Ordinance, 2016', and to direct that the same shall have effect as an Ordinance of the States.

The Senior Deputy Greffier: Article II, Proposition I – the European Communities (Food and Feed Controls) (Guernsey) Ordinance, 2016.

895

The Bailiff: This has been circulated; it is P. 2016/1.

Is there any request for any debate or clarification? No? We go to the vote. Those in favour; those against.

Members voted Pour.

The Bailiff: I declare it carried.

**III. The Financial Services Commission (Bailiwick of Guernsey)
Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016 – Approved**

Article III.

The States are asked to decide:

Whether they are of the opinion to approve the draft Ordinance entitled 'The Financial Services Commission (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016', and to direct that the same shall have effect as an Ordinance of the States.

900

The Senior Deputy Greffier: Article III, Proposition 2 – the Financial Services Commission (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016.

The Bailiff: And again, this has been circulated.

Any request for any debate or clarification?

905

Deputy Graham.

Deputy Graham: Sir, I am going to support this but I am not going entirely quietly, because I think there is one element of it which deserves a bit of comment.

910

I am referring really to the proposal that the statutory age limit for Commissioners of the GFSC be raised from 72 to 75. I had better, at this stage, assure the Assembly that I have no ambitions to *be* one, (*Laughter*) and I can support what I think is a sensible measure. But there is a wider narrative to this, I think, which deserves comment at this stage.

I think it is a comment which I particularly can make as one of only two Deputies in the Assembly who is eligible for carbon dating. (*Laughter and interjection*)

915

The President referred earlier on to the demographic headwind into which we are walking as an Island – and that is going to be a debate for another day, I suspect. But it may be worthwhile reflecting at this stage, and I am prompted by this particular Ordinance here, to consider the relevance in the future of age limits which in the past have been imposed arbitrarily and may have

920 made sense at the time, but I wonder whether they do now. In my view, one of the solutions – only one – to the demographic problems that loom ahead of us, is the encouragement and also the assistance that we will inevitably have to give to those of us – and there are many of us – who have survived the normal retirement age, are still blessed with the fortune of good health and who want to carry on being valuable contributory members of the community; and, in particular, tax-paying members of the community.

925 I really feel this is going to be part of this solution. But that is a debate for another day.

There are other examples and I suspect there is an endemic problem here because we are going to need a cultural change in order for this particular approach that I recommend to take place. I think the cultural change needs to take place out in industry, but I think it also ought to take place within Government. There are other examples where age limits have been applied

930 arbitrarily in the past other than just for the Guernsey Financial Services Commission. Unless I am mistaken and unless it has happened within the last few months, the same situation applies in some of the States' trading companies, if I can refer to them as that.

Take for example, Guernsey Electricity: Guernsey Electricity is required by law to have four non-executive directors. There is a rule, although I do not know whether it is a statutory one, that

935 requires those directors to retire at 70, but on the other hand they are required to serve for five years ideally so effectively we are dealing out of the equation anybody who, at the time of application, is 66 and above. I personally think that is a waste and I would question the relevance of having an age limit in those circumstances.

Mr Bailiff, sir, if I could refer to you, I believe you had to retire at 65. Now you may well have

940 had enough of us well before then, I suspect, (*Laughter*) but there we are. But if you juxtapose these things, for example, against a situation in the United States where, if Hillary Clinton becomes president, when she is sworn in she will be 69 when she starts and 77 when she finishes her two terms. Donald Trump will be 70 and 78. In either case one says 'God help America', but there we go! (*Laughter*)

945 I think this particular thing raises two questions for us really; and the first of them is, why 75? I suspect some good men and true sat round a table and said that they needed to up the age limit in order to give flexibility for the succession planning and so on, and that was a very meritorious reason for doing it. But they probably hit upon 75 almost in an arbitrary way and I would question the relevance of it. Why 75? I suppose there has to be a limit some time.

950 But that is the second question: what is the relevance really today of having any artificial age limits? If what you are worried about is that somebody might outlive or outstay their welcome, then you build terms of office into the system and you build into the contracts a means by which they can be persuaded to leave.

So I am, in general, questioning the need for age limit; and the reason I am standing up and

955 making this speech is really to encourage in the future all States' communities to think long and hard before they either perpetuate or introduce arbitrary age limits in part of their plans.

Thank you, sir. (*Applause*)

The Bailiff: That was Deputy Graham's maiden speech.

960 Is there any further debate? No?

Deputy St Pier, do you wish to reply to the debate?

Deputy St Pier: I will briefly, sir.

965 I think Deputy Graham probably strayed a *little* from the legislation into a broader issue and I understand his reasons for that. I think the context of this particular piece of legislation is of course reflecting, balancing, the interests of the international bodies that have a watchful eye over our regulatory regimes; together with, on the other hand, the domestic and social changes that Deputy Graham referred to.

970 I think it is absolutely right to identify that, for a whole variety of reasons, there are likely to be these sorts of changes to legislation and I would not be surprised to see this change at some

point in the future or for the limit to be removed. But, as I say, I think a balance does need to be struck between ensuring that the regulator is seen and perceived, particularly by those external to the Island, to have the characteristics which those bodies would regard as being credible to deliver the functions that are required for it locally.

975 Of course, again, I can perhaps give Deputy Graham the assurance that these sorts of matters in relation to the Commission are constantly under review and there is a constant dialogue between Government and the Commission as to the relevance of some of the legislation, and there will be further opportunities to ensure further change should that be appropriate in the future, sir.

980

The Bailiff: If we go to the vote, then, on the Financial Services Commission (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016. Those in favour; those against.

Members voted Pour.

The Bailiff: I declare it carried.

IV. The Gambling (Betting) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016 – Approved as amended

Article IV.

The States are asked to decide:

Whether they are of the opinion to approve the draft Ordinance entitled 'The Financial Services Commission (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016', and to direct that the same shall have effect as an Ordinance of the States.

985 **The Senior Deputy Greffier:** Article IV, Proposition 3 – the Gambling (Betting) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016.

The Bailiff: And there is an amendment which is to be laid by the President of the Committee for Home Affairs, Deputy Lowe.

990 **Deputy Lowe:** Thank you, sir.

Yes, I wish to lay this amendment and it is being seconded by Deputy Graham, our Vice-President of the Committee for Home Affairs.

The amendment is:

In sections 3 and 4 of the draft Ordinance, entitled the Gambling (Betting) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016, for 'throughout every Sunday', substitute 'throughout every Sunday, Good Friday and'.

995 Sir, since the original policy letter the then Home Department was approached by representatives from the local betting industry that effort is being made to remove the legislative prohibition on betting offices trading on Good Friday.

1000 Betting on Good Friday has been permitted in the UK since the introduction in the 2004 Gambling Act and since this time a number of horseracing fixtures have been held on that day. Local bookmakers wish to be able to accept bets on these events on Good Friday itself locally, believing that they and their customers are missing an opportunity.

The Committee for Home Affairs considered this matter and acknowledge the points raised surrounding the relaxation of Sunday opening and the prevalence of internet betting.

1005 The potential disadvantages for local businesses and the diversion of money out of the local economy were equally applicable to Good Friday opening and agreed there would be merit in this legislative amendment being made.

1010 Whilst conscious that it would be possible to prepare a further policy letter specifically for this matter, the Committee was mindful of its responsibilities as a Principal Committee to ensure that public funds and other resources are used to best advantage and agreed that, rather than seek the allocation of further resources both within the Committee and the Law Officers, that a relatively minor amendment be laid today.

We ask Members to please support this amendment and support the Ordinance before you.

Thank you, sir.

1015 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Graham, do you second the amendment?

Deputy Graham: I do indeed, sir.

The Bailiff: Thank you.

1020 Is there any debate? Deputy Dorey.

Deputy Dorey: Thank you, Mr Bailiff.

I wish to speak on the amendment and the Ordinance as well in one speech.

1025 We debated the policy letter as a supplementary one in July 2015 and I spoke against the opening of betting offices on a Sunday and also allowing betting shops to be on ground floor premises in Town.

Sir, my views have not changed. I think the previous policy letter recognised the problem when it said:

'The Department is conscious of the visual impact that the proliferation of betting offices has had on many UK high streets and indeed in Jersey, but believes that such problems will be avoided in Guernsey by the restriction of the number of betting offices locally.'

1030 I think having betting offices on the ground floor in UK streets is unsightly and I think if we have that in Guernsey they would damage the character and ambience of St Peter Port. More importantly, the High Street presence will encourage people to gamble and if they are open on a Sunday and Good Friday that means there is more opportunity for people to gamble. We know that it is addictive, it will not benefit society; it might benefit the bookmakers, but not those families who cannot afford to gamble and also have problem gamblers as part of their family.

1035 I would urge Members to vote against this amendment and vote against the Ordinance. Thank you.

The Bailiff: Deputy Gollop.

1040 **Deputy Gollop:** I deliberate a bit on this one because whilst broadly supportive of the more libertarian changes – and it has to be said now that I have got the role of the President of the Development and Planning Authority ...

1045 The Planning Department, as a rule ... in some cases, unsightly conversions of establishments and streets would obviously be looked at, and if they conformed within existing planning then they would be allowed. So whether that is a part-assurance, I do not know.

1050 I was initially surprised, I must admit, that the first act of the new Home Affairs team, Deputy Graham and Deputy Lowe, was to go down what is quite a rash route for Guernsey. I think the reason why Good Friday was excluded was not so much to do with the pragmatic situation of horseracing occurring in the UK, but was a gesture to the more religiously-minded part of our society. As you may recall, there was no rational reason why public houses are more heavily

licensed on Good Friday than other days of the year, but again it was to do with the holy day of Christ especially in the Anglican and Roman Catholic traditions. Therefore it will further affront some people in the community that some people, whether misguided or not, will prefer to go to their favourite local bookmakers.

1055 Of course in the real world we now live in a laconic age where people do that anyway online. But I am surprised that this measure has not gone out to greater consultation before being put before us because I think perhaps the wider views of the community should have been sought, rather than changing it rather rapidly on the first day of the new Assembly.

1060 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Le Tocq.

Deputy Le Tocq: Sir, yes, following on from that and just speaking to the amendment particularly, which I am supportive of, could the President of Home Affairs indicate whether her Committee will be considering the liberalisation of licensing hours, on which I do agree with
1065 Deputy Gollop. I think the Good Friday element of that was probably put in for religious reasons as well.

So bearing that in mind, if the Committee is recommending greater liberalisation with regard to gambling on that day, is there an intention to look at licensing hours for the sale of alcohol as well?

1070

The Bailiff: Deputy De Lisle.

Deputy De Lisle: Sir, I would like to just say that there is no clamour to change the law and until that is so I do not see any need for change with respect to this particular holy day.

1075 The move follows the Gambling Act in England, Scotland and Wales which allows bookies to trade every day except Christmas Day. This would make Christmas Day the only occasion, if this went through today, on which it is illegal to open.

We do not have to follow England and Wales and Scotland, where the ban on taking bets on one of the most sacred days in the Christian calendar was swept away in the government's controversial gambling reforms; and I say it was *controversial* in England, Wales and Scotland, and many fail to see the real benefits of the public holiday and the special day for many. I would not personally want to support this further extension beyond what is in the amendment to the Ordinance in front of us.

1080 Thank you, sir.

1085

The Bailiff: Yes, Deputy Le Clerc.

Deputy Le Clerc: Sir, perhaps Deputy Lowe could advise the Assembly: is it not true to say that most of the issues around gambling, particularly in Guernsey, are not as a result of people visiting local bookmakers, but as a result of *online* gambling – and that is available on Good Friday? The sale of lottery tickets is an issue which is causing concern on the Island, so actually visiting the bookmakers is not the number one priority for the Department?

1095 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Fallaize.

Deputy Fallaize: Thank you, sir, just a word on dealing with the amendment only.

There is no reason why gambling is any better or worse on Good Friday than it is on any other day of the year. There may be arguments not to encourage people to gamble, but they are no more pertinent on Good Friday than they are on any other day.

1100 I think the amendment that is proposed is almost a technical amendment in that when the States debated the policy letter in the last term – and I was a Member of the Home Department at the time – I think not including Good Friday at that time was probably an oversight of the

1105 Department, because the theme of the policy letter and the message that came across from the States' meeting was very much in favour of liberalisation of gambling legislation, particularly because of what Deputy Le Clerc has just mentioned and the prevalence of online betting now.

1110 So I think this amendment clearly does not need another policy letter, it is completely within the spirit of what the States voted for when they last debated this. This is really not a major amendment; it is a very minor, almost technical extension, to the Ordinance that is before the States. So I will support it.

The Bailiff: I see no one else rising, so Deputy Lowe will reply to the debate on the amendment.

Deputy Lowe: Thank you, sir.

1115 I thank Deputy Dorey for his concerns again and I respect that and he spoke very strongly about it when it came to the States in July last year; and I am pleased, really, that he has reiterated it today because he has stayed with that. But with regard to the ground floor bookmakers, there has been a ground floor bookmakers in Guernsey for many years – it used to be on the Bridge and it never caused any problems down there.

1120 I do not think there was a bigger problem of gambling on the Bridge than in Town, really. And that no longer exists, but it was there for many years. So I really do not feel that there is any need for him to worry about a ground floor.

1125 And of course it would be visited by the Home Affairs Committee anyway to ensure the facilities are appropriate. It also has to go through the planning department, and if the planning department are not happy with the operation going in that particular area then they will not give permission. We have seen how the planning laws work – sometimes we think they are a little bit too stringent if you are talking about signs, and at other times they fine and they are working within the Law that this States actually set. So I am comforted by that.

1130 I can give assurances to Deputy Le Tocq that, yes, we are *definitely* looking at that – that came up at the end of the last Home Department meetings and that we wish to do that. So we will be reviewing that because, again, it is a bit of a nonsense in this day and age where the liquor licensing is restricted to certain hours on Good Friday. So you can drink on Good Friday but only within certain hours – and it has to close I think from two o'clock or 2.30 p.m. in the afternoon until 7 p.m. in the evening. So, if you can drink you can drink, but why they have put that in is very much an old custom, and we are looking to change that.

1135 I think Deputy Le Clerc is absolutely right – and Deputy Fallaize. This is really a technical amendment that should have been part of the report when it came in July last year and was heavily supported by the States. So I hope Members will support this today again and we can move forward.

1140 Thank you very much.

The Bailiff: Members, we go to the vote. I am sorry, Deputy De Lisle?

1145 **Deputy De Lisle:** Can we have a recorded vote, sir?

The Bailiff: Right, Members, we will have a recorded vote on the amendment proposed by Deputy Lowe and seconded by Deputy Graham.

There was a recorded vote.

Carried – Pour 25, Contre 9, Ne vote pas 1, Absent 5

POUR

Deputy Graham
Deputy Green
Deputy Le Tocq
Deputy Brouard
Deputy Soulsby
Deputy de Sausmarez
Deputy Roffey
Deputy Prow
Deputy Oliver
Deputy Ferbrache
Deputy Kuttelwascher
Deputy Tindall
Deputy Brehaut
Deputy Tooley
Deputy Parkinson
Deputy Lester Queripel
Deputy Le Clerc
Deputy Leadbeater
Deputy Le Pelley
Deputy Merrett
Deputy St Pier
Deputy Meerveld
Deputy Fallaize
Deputy Lowe
Deputy Hansmann Rouxel

CONTRE

Deputy Paint
Deputy Dorey
Deputy Dudley-Owen
Deputy De Lisle
Deputy Langlois
Deputy Gollop
Deputy Mooney
Deputy Stephens
Deputy Smithies

NE VOTE PAS

Deputy Yerby

ABSENT

Alderney Rep. Jean
Alderney Rep. McKinley
Deputy Trott
Deputy David Jones
Deputy Laurie Queripel

1150 **The Bailiff:** Can I just remind Members that when they are voting they should make sure their microphone is on as they vote, that is how the Rules are these days – they were not that way in the past, but they are these days.

Well, Members, the record of voting on the amendment proposed by Deputy Lowe, seconded by Deputy Graham was 25 votes in favour, with 9 against and 1 abstention. I declare the amendment carried.

1155 Is there any further debate? Any debate on the Ordinance, as now amended? No?

In that case we go to the vote on the Gambling (Betting) (Amendment) Ordinance 2016, as amended. Those in favour; those against.

Members voted Pour

The Bailiff: I declare that carried.

V. The Public Transport (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016 – Approved

Article V.

In pursuance of the provisions of the proviso to Article 66(3) of the Reform (Guernsey) Law, 1948, as amended, 'The Public Transport (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016', made by the Legislation Select Committee on the 25th April 2016, was laid before the States.

1160 **The Senior Deputy Greffier:** Article V, Proposition 4 – The Public Transport (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016.

The Bailiff: Is there any debate or request for clarification? No.
We go straight to the vote. Those in favour; those against.

Members voted Pour.

1165 **The Bailiff:** I declare it carried.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS LAID BEFORE THE STATES

**The Air Navigation (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Air Operators' Certificates) Regulations, 2016;
The Companies (Recognition of Auditors) (Amendment) Regulations, 2016;
The Health Service (Benefit) (Limited List) (Pharmaceutical Benefit) (Amendment)
Regulations, 2016;
The Health Service (Payment of Authorised Suppliers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2016;
The Liquor Licence (Fees) Regulations, 2016;
The Motor Taxation (First Registration Duty) (Exemptions and Preferential Rates)
Regulations, 2016;
The Control of Poisonous Substances (Guernsey) (Amendment) Regulations, 2016;
The Driving Licences (Amendment) Regulations, 2016;
The Driving Tests (Fees) Regulations, 2016;
The Trade Marks (Fees) Regulations, 2016;
The Trade Marks (Fees) (No. 2) Regulations, 2016
The Fishing (Minimum Size and Prescribed Species) (Amendment) Order, 2016;
The Fishing (Minimum Size and Prescribed Species) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 2016;
The Boarding Permit Fees Order 2016;**

The Senior Deputy Greffier: The following Statutory Instruments are laid before the States:
The Air Navigation (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Air Operators' Certificates) Regulations, 2016; The
Companies (Recognition of Auditors) (Amendment) Regulations, 2016; The Health Service
1170 (Benefit) (Limited List) (Pharmaceutical Benefit) (Amendment) Regulations, 2016; The Health
Service (Payment of Authorised Suppliers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2016; The Liquor Licence
(Fees) Regulations, 2016; The Motor Taxation (First Registration Duty) (Exemptions and
Preferential Rates) Regulations, 2016; The Control of Poisonous Substances (Guernsey)
(Amendment) Regulations, 2016; The Driving Licences (Amendment) Regulations, 2016; The
1175 Driving Tests (Fees) Regulations, 2016; The Trade Marks (Fees) Regulations, 2016; The Trade Marks
(Fees) (No. 2) Regulations, 2016; The Fishing (Minimum Size and Prescribed Species) (Amendment)
Order, 2016; The Fishing (Minimum Size and Prescribed Species) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 2016
and The Boarding Permit Fees Order 2016.

1180 **The Bailiff:** I have not received notice of any motion to annul any of those Statutory
Instruments, so we move on.

COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION, SPORT & CULTURE

**VI. Island Games 2021 proposal –
Propositions carried**

Article VI

The States are asked:

To decide whether, after consideration of the policy letter dated 29th April, 2016, of the former Culture and Leisure Department, they are of the opinion:

i) to support the bid by the Guernsey Island Games Association for Guernsey to host the 2021 Island Games, as set out in that policy letter.

ii) In the event of a successful bid, to provide financial support by providing a States grant of £750,000 to host the 2021 Island Games, funded by way of a combination of:

a) a maximum of £600,000 from the Lottery Appropriation Account (to include the operating surplus from the running of an Island Games Lottery); and

b) a maximum of £150,000 from the capital account of the Sports Loans Fund.

iii) to authorise payments of monies out of the States' grant to be made by the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture in consultation with the Policy & Resources Committee and the Guernsey Island Games Association LBG.

The Senior Deputy Greffier: Proposition 5, the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture – Island Games 2021 proposals.

1185

The Bailiff: Debate will be opened by the President, Deputy Le Pelley.

Deputy Le Pelley: Thank you, sir.

1190

It gives me a huge amount of satisfaction that the first speech I make to this Assembly as the President for Education, Sport & Culture is one that enables me to state without any doubt that my Committee is behind sport. In fact, this policy letter allows all of us to shout that message loud and clear.

1195

We all know the benefits that sport and activity can bring to a community and to an individual, regardless of their age, physical impairment, academic ability, financial means – the list goes on. The point I am making here is that sport does not discriminate, and agreeing to support this policy letter is a way in which we, the States, can give something marvellous to the entire community. Those opportunities do not come around very often.

1200

We are all acutely aware of our current financial position and there is no doubt that gaining all of the benefits that the 2021 Island Games will bring comes at a cost. However, everyone involved has worked hard to come up with a way to fund the Games that will have minimal impact on general revenue streams. The Guernsey Island Games Association – GIGA, as they are known – are already confident that at least £750,000 can be raised from the private sector to help fund the event. In fact, I am led to believe that cheque books are already open and pens poised pending the outcome of today's debate. This policy letter asks the States to make that same commitment.

1205

For those of you who may not be aware, there is a fund that the old Culture & Leisure Department set up in 2014 known as the Lottery Appropriation Account. More than £600,000 has now been paid into that account, which the States resolved in 2014 should be used for major projects and events that fall within the Department's mandate. Hosting an Island Games was specifically cited as one such event.

1210

The letter of support for the bid from the old Treasury & Resources Department, signed, of course, by our now President of Policy & Resources, acknowledges that this is:

'... an excellent example of the purpose for this fund.'

So here we are today, asking to use that money for exactly the purpose that we promised the community it would be used for.

1215 It is also worth pointing out that continued improvements in the way in which Beau Séjour is operated, along with the predicted sustainability of Lottery proceeds, means that the Committee is reasonably confident that these funds will be replenished over the next four years.

1220 It is intended to make up the balance with unallocated funding sitting within the Committee's Sports Loans Fund, a scheme that is underused, tied up in aged bureaucracy and set to be reviewed as part of the Island's Sport and Activity Strategy that the Committee will be bringing to the States during next year.

It is important to note that the £750,000 grant will be made available regardless of the amount of private sector input that is generated. It is also of note, however, that for the 2003 Guernsey Island Games, the private sector funding input outstripped initial budget expectations threefold.

1225 We were honoured that Dame Mary Perkins DBE agreed to chair the Island Games Committee and she did this in the knowledge that the role brought with it significant responsibilities in terms of governance and delivering public expectations. I know that the Policy & Resources Committee is keen to ensure that effective governance arrangements are put in place to ensure the proper management of the Government grant. I want to assure you all that my own Committee is also
1230 very cognisant of the need to work closely with the Island Games Committee and to protect the States' interests, and not just in a monitoring role. GIGA are not only accepting, but are also keen that representation from my Committee is involved in the delivery of the Games from the high-level strategic decision-making, right through to the operational elements of delivery on the day. We have already begun working with our colleagues at St James' Chambers to put together the
1235 conditions that will attach directly to the handover of the grant.

I will not labour the point, because the wider benefits of hosting an Island Games are explained in the policy letter. However, I will just add that, while the positive benefits for inspiring interest in sport and physical activity may be obvious, there is no doubt that the wider benefits for the economy, promoting the Island on a world stage and of bringing the community together for a
1240 common cause are all effects that will outlive the week-long competition.

We acknowledge in the policy letter that there are still many challenges that we need to overcome over the next five years: how will everybody get here; where will they all sleep; how will we transport the athletes around the Island? But do you know, one of the most inspiring things about putting the 2021 Island Games' bid together is that everyone involved in answering these
1245 questions, without exception, has been utterly positive about the Island's ability to meet those challenges. Maybe there is a touch of 'anything Jersey can do, we can do better' but the sports clubs and associations, the hotels, the old Commerce & Employment Department, the old Policy Council and the old Treasury & Resources Department, the Sports Commission – again a long list of those with absolute determination and confidence in their ability to step up to the plate, meet
1250 the challenges and deliver on behalf of the Island. Is that really any wonder, though? After all, that is the spirit of sport.

There was a huge amount of support within the previous Assembly for this bid, matched only by the positive public reaction. I hope my confidence that that level of support is continued in this Assembly is not misplaced and that you will agree to these Propositions.

1255 Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Lester Queripel.

Deputy Lester Queripel: Thank you, sir.

1260 Sir, I will start by saying that I speak as a member of a family who has always been heavily involved in sport here in the Island; mainly sports like motor racing, football and cricket. Both of my brothers, Linden, Laurie and I, have been actively involved in all three of those sports for decades.

1265 My son, Blane, continues the sporting Queripel tradition by playing for Rovers Priaulx football team, who were runners up to North this season. I am pleased to say that Blane was awarded a trophy for Player of the Year. I am also pleased to say he has played football and cricket for Guernsey on several occasions.

Sadly, due to the fact that both my mother and father were disabled they were not able to participate in sport, but they were avid followers of all sports.

1270 Sir, as we all know, sport today is big business. It is a massive money spinner and a huge generator of income. When I was lying in bed on Sunday morning, reading my Billet, I noticed that it states in paragraph 15 on page 4 that hosting the games could generate between £1.8 million and £2.4 million, and some of this money will be fed into States' revenue through excise duties and taxes. It is estimated that this could generate an additional £300,000 to £400,000 for the States.

1275 That sounds like good news, but is it actually as good as it sounds? Because the way I see it, we are being asked to agree to spend £750,000 of islanders' money to recoup between £300,000 to £400,000. The worst case scenario will result in a deficit of £450,000 and the best case scenario will result in the deficit of £350,000.

1280 That is the way I see it, sir: the States will be subsidising a week-long sporting event to the tune of at least £350,000. So I would like to know, is that the way the President sees it? That is my first question. Because £350,000 is an awful lot of money to spend on a week-long sporting event.

1285 I am not trying to put a downer on the event, sir, because I am only too aware that local visitors can benefit from anything between £1.8 million to £2.4 million, but the fact of the matter is the States will still be subsidising the event.

It is ironic that Mr David Harry, the Chief Executive of the Guernsey Sports Commission, said in the media recently:

'Invest in sport or pay the price.'

I have that press cutting with me, sir, in case any of my colleagues wish to see it.

1290 Of course, the same can be said of the arts because, just like sport, the arts instil self-worth and confidence in individuals: two vital elements for a healthy lifestyle. So, sir, the power of the arts must never be underestimated by this Assembly. Anyway, it does not need to be a case of sport versus the arts; it should be a case of sport *and* the arts, because both are equally important to members of our community. They both generate that much-needed feel-good factor that we all need.

1295 Moving back to this Report, sir, I take great comfort from our being told in paragraph 25 on page 7 that:

'... the IIGA has expressed its confidence in the Island's ability to host ... [the Island] Games in 2021.'

1300 Sir, our facilities will be up to scratch, but what really concerns me are our transport links to and from the Island. We have heard several reports from local sporting organisations that they often encounter serious problems in trying to get off and back onto the Island to attend sporting events, even to the point where some of those events have had to be cancelled. I know that 2021 sounds like a long way away, but it is already June 2016. We are told the Games will be staged in July 2021 – just over five years away.

1305 My view is – and it is a shame Deputy Dave Jones is not here to hear this – the States' Trading Supervisory Board needs to grab Aurigny by the scruff of the neck and give them a damn good shake up; either that, or we introduce an open skies policy.

The Bailiff: Are you digressing? *(Laughter)*

1310 **Deputy Lester Queripel:** No, sir, I am not. It is all relevant to the sports, athletes and the dignitaries getting on and off the Island, sir.

As regard to sea links, I think we should set up our own ferry service and dispense with Condor.

1315 **The Bailiff:** Just for the Island Games? Is that what you are recommending? (*Laughter*)

Deputy Lester Queripel: No, sir. That would just be a bonus, sir. I am talking in general, sir.

The Bailiff: Well, that is the point. This is a debate on the Island Games 2021 proposals.

1320

Deputy Lester Queripel: Sir, I realise that you and my colleagues may be thinking that this debate is not about any of that but it is, because if transport links to and from the Island are not drastically improved, then we will not be staging sporting or artistic events in the future.

1325 I do not think it is good enough to be told in paragraph 27 that the organising committee will be working closely with *VisitGuernsey* to *investigate* travel arrangements. It is not investigation that is needed; we already know the problems. Something drastic needs to be done. It is solutions to those problems that are really needed here. We can only hope, sir, that that organising committee are going to be as proactive as they really do need to be.

1330 Now, sir, having said all of that, I do want to see the Games take place in Guernsey as much as anyone else, but I am concerned about the costs. It could be argued, as the President has already alluded to, that the £350,000 to £450,000 deficit will be off-set by the on-Island spend of anything between £1.8 million and £2.4 million, and I get that. In a very real sense, we are speculating to accumulate, but I still have a concern that the pot will be depleted by anything from £350,000 to £450,000. I am hoping the President can allay my concerns about that when he responds.

1335 Moving onto the costs that are laid out in appendix 1, I do wonder if some of those costs can be brought down somewhat. I am not going to focus on all of those costs, but if we start at the top of the list we see that 'Administration' and 'Office' costs total £165,000, yet we are told in paragraph 51 on page 12 that:

'... staff resources will be minimal and can be managed as part of [a] 'business as usual' [basis] ...'

1340 So I would like some clarification from the President, please, regarding that £165,000 figure for staff salaries and office costs.

Also, the £200,000 cost for transportation. My question to the President is who is actually being transported for that money and where? My understanding is that athletes pay their own transport costs when they attend Games like these. I appreciate I might be wrong, of course. I am hoping the President can enlighten me on that.

1345 I am also aware that we are told in paragraph 18 that:

'The Games can also be used as an opportunity to invite political representatives ... from other jurisdictions to build relations from these jurisdictions.'

Sir, would that £200,000 also be paying for the transport costs of those representatives?

Moving further down the list to 'Equipment' and 'Volunteers', we seem to be paying twice for podiums. I wonder if the President can shed any light on why we are paying twice for podiums.

1350 But the figure that really concerns me is the figure of £345,000 for 'Sports and Officials'. Should that read, 'Sports Officials'? If so, then that sounds rather a lot to pay for professional sports officials for one week. Or does it actually mean 'sports *and* officials'? If so, what does that actually mean? That is not made clear. It cannot mean hiring out sports facilities, because we are told in paragraph 51 that there will be:

'... no charge for the use of facilities during the Island Games ...'

1355 I am hoping the President can shed some light on that, sir, because surely we need to know what £345,000 is being spent on.

In fact, sir, I would have liked to have seen a much more detailed breakdown of the costs involved here, because we often hear it said in this Chamber that we need to be fully informed to enable us to make a decision. At the moment, sir, I do not feel fully informed as to exactly why as much as £750,000 needs to come out of States' funds to help fund these Games.

1360 I am hoping that the staff have given the President all the information he needs to answer my questions and allay my concerns, and any other questions and concerns that might be expressed by my colleagues in the Assembly. If the President cannot allay my concerns and answer my questions, all I can hope is that one of my colleagues can enlighten me during the debate, because, as I said earlier, I really want to see the Games take place, but at the moment the cost is
1365 just a bridge too far: £750,000 of States' money for a week-long sports' festival.

I will listen to the rest of the debate, sir, and if my concerns have not been allayed by the time we go to the vote, then I may just have to abstain, which would be unusual for me because I think I only abstained once in the last four years, from a vote, in a previous Assembly.

I am only too aware that paragraph 40 tells us that:

'... ultimate control over all financial matters will rest with the newly formed Committee for Education, Sport & Culture.'

1370 Sir, with that in mind, I would expect either Deputy Dudley Owen or Deputy Meerveld or Deputy De Lisle or Deputy Leadbeater, being members of the Committee, to be able to answer those questions, because surely they have the answers, surely they know all the details since they have all supported this proposal to stage these Games. I am sure they would not do that without being fully informed, sir.

1375 Once again, sir, it is the politicians who will get it in the neck if things go wrong. So we really need to be assured by the members of the Committee that they know exactly what is going on and we, as an Assembly, know exactly what we are signing up to.

Another thing I am concerned about is the issue of security, because we are told in paragraph 28:

'... there is now a much higher demand for professionalism [and]security ...'

1380 – in the modern day; yet there is no mention of security costs in the expenses in appendix 1, and I think there should be, because security in the modern day is incredibly expensive. So I am hoping that the President or one of the members of the Committee can answer that one in debate.

Sir, as I have already said, I will listen to the rest of the debate before I decide which way to vote.

1385 The final thing I would like to know is, once the Games are over – if we do host them, that is – will the Assembly, at that time, be given a final breakdown of how and where the £750,000 of States/public money was spent?

Thank you, sir.

1390 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Green was first to his feet.

Deputy Green: Thank you, sir.

I will be supporting this policy letter, I think.

1395 Deputy Lester Queripel, a moment ago, was asking, individually, the members of the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture whether they were going to make some contribution. I was somewhat amused by the fact that it was Deputy St Pier acting as the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture that actually submitted this for debate, which is the starting point, I suppose.

1400 The reason why I support this – and I have actually thought very hard about what the possible sceptical reasons for not supporting this are. But really it comes down to the fact that the funding of this ... £750,000 is what we are asked to support. I think if we were being faced with a Proposition to draw that from general revenue then the argument would be considerably weaker,

but the bottom line is it is a grant which is made up from a combination of funds as set out in paragraph 5, and I think that puts a very different perspective on it.

1405 There is no doubt, Mr Bailiff, that the short-term economic benefits of holding the Island Games in 2021 will be enormous. With an influx of 3,000 or so people, that is not to be shied away from.

1410 I suppose my real concern is – and I would be grateful if the President for the Committee in question, Deputy Le Pelley, can perhaps touch on this when he responds – what exactly do we want the longer-term legacy to be? Because there is mention in the report of the want and the desire for a longer-term legacy, and I think we would all agree with that. But what exactly are we talking about when we talk about that kind of legacy? I would certainly want any tangible legacy of the Island Games being held in Guernsey in 2021 to be the sort of legacy that will benefit everybody in our society, right across the social structure. So I would be grateful if he could
1415 address that in terms of what steps he will be taking to ensure that the legacy is a lasting and viable one.

Deputy Lester Queripel touched upon some of the challenges which are involved in holding the Island Games and, of course, there are very real challenges about transport, about the number of beds in our Island – which are perhaps less than there were in 2003 – and security, which is a
1420 legitimate question to raise. But I think we have to see those challenges within the correct context, don't we? They can be managed; they shall be mitigated.

I take Deputy Lester Queripel's point, sir, about potentially the lack of some information on some of these issues, but I am prepared to say in the final analysis that, on balance, the merits do weigh very favourably with the potential challenges which can and will be dealt with.

1425 In those circumstances, sir, subject to what I have said, I will be supporting these Propositions.

The Bailiff: Deputy Roffey, then Deputy Fallaize.

Deputy Roffey: Thank you, sir.

1430 I think I am really somewhere between Deputy Le Pelley and Deputy Queripel on this. Deputy Le Pelley seemed to think it is a no-brainer, it is our opportunity to shout our support for sport; whereas Deputy Queripel seemed a bit of a Jonah, to be honest, on it. I think it is a finer judgement than that.

1435 I promised the people of the south-east during the recent election campaign that I was a tight little Guernseyman and that I would spend their money just as grudgingly as I spend my own. I intend to see that through, throughout the next four years, and after the Statement from Deputy St Pier this morning I think I probably need to do that even more vigorously than I thought I was going to have to do beforehand.

1440 So I do not come to this with a feel-good factor. Yes, I am a passionate supporter of sport; and if this goes through, as I suspect it will, then I will be down at Footes Lane every day, if I can, watching the track and field – Inch' Allah, five years away, you can never be sure. But, to be honest, if this was going to cost £¾ million out of general revenue, if it was going to cost £¼ million out of general revenue, then I would be voting against and I would be saying to all my very disappointed sports fanatic friends, 'Sorry, this is the new reality. Yes, it's a very good thing,
1445 but we can't have all the very good things that we want to have in Guernsey: wake up to the situation that we are actually in.'

It is not coming out of general revenue. In fact, you could argue general revenue is going to gain from this because the money going to the grants is not coming out of general revenue, but the taxes paid every time somebody wins a gold medal and goes out to celebrate and has a few drinks will go back into general revenue. So that account alone would actually gain, but public
1450 money is public money and there is a cost of £¾ million.

I think, as I say, it is a fine judgement. I am with Deputy Green. I think I am going to go with it, but I have a few reservations to express and things I want to ask.

1455 It said in the policy letter that if the commercial sponsorship does not come through, our
exposure will not be increased, the event will be scaled back. I just do not believe that. What are
you going to do: cut out a sport, cut out an island, make your gold medals out of plastic instead? I
do not know. I think the cost is the cost. I do not expect it to happen; but, if we do not raise
sufficient funds from the private sector, I think when we are too far down the chute to do anything
1460 about it a supplementary policy letter will come back to the States asking for extra cash – and that
worries me, particularly in view of the information we have had recently.

As I say, it is all public money and most of it will come from this fund that has been built up
out of the lottery which is above and beyond what is needed to subsidise Beau Séjour and we
have heard this morning that that is okay because that would be rebuilt up over the years ahead
because the prediction is that there would be a surplus. I hope it is not rebuilt up over the years
1465 ahead, because I do not think that is how ... That is the policy now, but I do not think that is how
we should be spending that surplus.

Down in Jersey, all of the money from the Channel Islands Lottery goes to good causes. Here
in Guernsey, apart from the Christmas one, none of it does, and yet we keep hearing about the
need to support the third sector for them to deliver more of the services that we can no longer
1470 afford to deliver as a community. I think we should be seriously reviewing what we do with the
profits from the Channel Islands Lottery and actually putting more into frontline services delivered
by the third sector in partnership with this Assembly.

So I warn Deputy Le Pelley that if he wants to spend the money out of that account, fine, it is
sitting there now, but I am not pledging to continue to support that policy going forward to
1475 replenish that fund.

I suppose the other fear is that we have all seen sets of games around the world where the
initial estimated cost has escalated and the final result has been far in excess, so really what I am
asking Deputy Le Pelley is: if the cost is more, if the private sector does not stump up as much as
he expects, is he willing to pledge his reputation today on the exposure of the States of Guernsey
1480 being limited to what is set out in this policy letter – which does not actually carry his name, but
which he has presented, but which carries Deputy St Pier's name? If he is, then okay, I am willing
to give him that degree of trust and respect and say fine, but I put down a warning now that if
that is not the extent of our exposure, then despite it being a jolly good thing I think that we
should not increase our support for this event, because I just do not think, with what we need to
1485 do in healthcare and education and everything else, we can justify that.

One final word on legacy: don't believe a word of it. I have been to Olympics and
Commonwealth Games. All of the bids are sold on legacy. There is no legacy. The legacy is a
damned good time during the duration of the games and almost nothing is different afterwards.
So let's not get hung up on legacy. This will be a brilliant event and if it can be done for this cost I
1490 support it, but I do think it is a fine judgement and I do think we have to start saying no to some
good things.

Two Members: Hear, hear.

1495 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Fallaize.

Deputy Fallaize: Thank you, sir.

Deputy Lester Queripel, when he spoke, asked Members to allay his concerns and enlighten
him. I do not know that I can do the former, but hopefully I can do the latter.

1500 He pleaded for a greater scrutiny of the costs. I think that the budget that has been put
together ... and I accept the point he makes that it is not terribly detailed, and perhaps Deputy Le
Pelley will expand upon it when he sums up, but it looks to me as if those who have put it
together have already been fairly careful. Deputy Roffey said he was 'a tight little Guernseyman'; I
am not sure he is little – he might be tight! (**A Member:** He was!) (*Laughter*) But it looks to me as
1505 if fairly tight-fisted Guernseymen and women have put the budget together already.

Public funding of other Island Games events is considerably greater, and it has been in the past, than is proposed in this policy letter. When Jersey hosted the Island Games in 2015 – and their financial position is not all that much different from ours – the public contribution was £1.3 million, which was 68% of the overall expenditure. In 2011, in the Isle of Wight, the public contribution was 61% of overall expenditure. What we are talking about is £750,000, which is limited to 50% of the overall cost, so I do not think it is going to be possible to host a credible Island Games without spending the sort of money that is set out in this budget, and if Deputy Queripel hopes to find further savings ... well, I just do not think it is going to be possible. The Island Games has clearly moved on a lot since ... was it 1985 when we first hosted it, 1987? I remember being down watching athletics at the cinder track at Footes Lane. It is a completely different animal these days, the Island Games. I think if it can be done for a public contribution of £750,000, that is pretty good value.

I am closer to Deputy Le Pelley than I am to the other speakers we have heard. I think this is a fantastic opportunity for the Island. There are many benefits. I take the point Deputy Roffey makes about legacy, but I think that hosting an Island Games can be used as a platform to encourage and inspire particularly young people in sport. I think that happened when it was last hosted by Guernsey in 2003. It is a fantastic opportunity to showcase the Island.

We are members of the International Island Games Association. It is a bit like being a member of the British-Irish Council: occasionally it is your turn to host it, particularly if you are one of the larger islands – and we are, in International Island Games Association terms – so I think that it was inevitable that if it was not 2021 it was going to be soon after then that it would effectively be our turn to host it.

I was working as a journalist at the *Press* when we hosted it in 2003 and I remember it as a fantastic week. The Island embraced this event quite extraordinarily and it was a huge success. There were some moments of drama. I remember being at the Corbet Field reporting on a football match between Guernsey and Rhodes, and Rhodes managed to have the match abandoned because they had so many players sent off, but on that occasion there were 5,000 people at the Corbet Field watching that match. I do not think that was the official figure, actually, because I am not sure it could really host 5,000 under the *salle publique*, but it was about 5,000, I think, in reality, and the place was really heaving and the atmosphere was absolutely fantastic.

I think it is a long time since a sporting event held locally would have generated that sort of interest and excitement, and this kind of interest and excitement was everywhere you went during the week that Guernsey hosted the Games. It really was a fantastic event and it would be again if we secured the bid in 2021.

It could be argued that this money could be spent elsewhere, but – Deputy Le Pelly referred to this when he opened the debate – if it was spent on anything other than something like this, it would probably amount to misappropriation of funds in the sense that this is what the money was always earmarked for. I think he said that hosting the Island Games was identified as a potential item of expenditure when the fund was created, so I think it is a perfectly appropriate use of this money which has been put aside in recent years.

It is going to be interesting to see how the fiscally meaner Members of the States vote on this. I do think that some political capital will be used up if Members vote in favour of this and then spend the next several months coming back and telling the States how expenditure on anything other than absolutely essential items must be avoided.

But, for me, I think this is an opportunity that we must embrace. It would be a fantastic week and I hope that the States overwhelmingly endorse these proposals and send the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture away with the resounding endorsement to bid for the Games in 2021 – and good luck to them.

The Bailiff: Deputy De Lisle.

Deputy De Lisle: Sir, I am very supportive of the bid – obviously, being on the Committee as well. To me, it embraces the incredible achievements in sport over the years that this Island has won. For me, of course, it is good for the economy. We need that very desperately. Based on
1560 current estimates, we can see perhaps 2,500 competitors and officials travelling to the Island and we can see a number of visiting spectators as well coming to the Island. Therefore, it is good for the restaurants, it is good for the town, it is good for the retail trade and so on and so forth. We need to be encouraging more of these sorts of activities in this Island, particularly at a time when we are looking for opportunities for growth and expanding the economy locally.

1565 I certainly take on board some of the issues that have been brought up, and I think we have to have very tight control on the budget with regard to development of facilities and that sort of thing, because these activities have tended to go over budget in other areas, as we have been alerted to by other speakers.

1570 There are also concerns with respect to bed stock and I think we have to look at that very carefully with respect to the accommodation and the challenge with the visitor economy, because we want to see that we can still invite the number of visitors that we regularly bring in as well as hold the Games. So tight budget control is very important.

1575 I think one thing here that we have to remember is that this is not the first occasion that the Games have been held in Guernsey and, as a result, facilities have been developed in the past and we will be reusing facilities already available that have been paid for in the past. So that is something that is of benefit, really.

1580 But surely the real benefit of hosting the Games is the positive effects on the local community, essentially, from inspiring interest in sport and physical activity generally island-wide and sporting performance, because the Island has a very notable record in terms of sporting performance internationally. And, of course, promoting the Island on the world stage ... whether Island Games is world stage, but it is at least something towards that and supporting, encouraging, community spirit as well is extremely important.

1585 I believe that as long as we are very tight in terms of budget control I think that we can run a very successful Games. We can gain some definite positive effects not only on the local community but in terms of performance outside the Island. I think it is something that we should all be supporting in terms of economic and social development for this Island.

Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Gollop is first to his feet.

1590 **Deputy Gollop:** I could do with some of Deputy Lester Queripel's feel-good factor, I think, (*Laughter and interjection*) and of course nobody has mentioned yet – but I am sure Deputy Soulsby will – the benefits to our health strategies. If I got a bit more in trim, maybe I could compete in the Island Games. We have certainly had Members in this House who have actually
1595 won medals in Island Games before now. I am not just talking about bowls – we had one of the older Members win a medal, of which he was very proud!

1600 When the events last occurred, in 2003, I remember two people who served in this Assembly were very much involved and did a lot of work for it – they were Mr Paul Luxon and Mr Stewart Falla They organised transport round the Island, which much concerned the Traffic Committee in those days, because fortunately at the time we had a new fleet of buses – maybe that will be the case now under Deputy Brehaut – and therefore we were able to use the old fleet of buses that were still on the Island, the old Optares, to transport athletes around. We might not have that opportunity this time round, and that has to be one of the logisticals if – a partial answer maybe,
1605 Deputy Lester Queripel – the transport was on-Island transport linking the different sites. So that is one logistical.

I think that the budget concerned appears high to us laypeople, but as Deputy Fallaize has pointed out, it is actually lower than what we have seen in comparable islands, like Jersey or the Isle of Man.

1610 I think there are legacies from these endeavours: they include memories, they include connections. One of the things the Island does extremely well to punch above our weight is sporting champions of all kinds, not just in Island Games sports but in sports like cricket and tennis and in many other spheres too. One technical argument that has been put to me about the Island Games is that, I gather, 14 sports are generally the lucky few, but of course there are perhaps 36 or 50 other sports on the Island that we also need to consider, and I personally would
1615 welcome the Island Games including even more sports within its range.

I think it does, as Deputy De Lisle says, raise our international profile and it is an opportunity for some public relations with other islands. I, like some of our colleagues, went to hear Mr Chris Brock's analysis – and of course he is another former Member of this Chamber – on different islands around, and he was presenting his views with three other States' Members yesterday as well. I think we can learn from these islands, and the islands very much enrich us and give us
1620 support.

One point that came up the last time we had the event, in 2003, was the scale of the event. The 2012 summer Olympics, which were a great success for London, included 10,200 athletes. We will have 2,500. That is a quarter of the kind of total you see in a huge nation state. When Greece held
1625 it – I actually went to that one – in 2004, Greece was the smallest populated nation and probably with the tightest budget – and they did not learn from that experience perhaps – to hold such a global event. Usually it is countries the scale of the United States or Australia. The point I am making is for us to hold an event which in a sense is a quarter the size of the Olympics is a massive undertaking and one that can only bring us social and communication benefits, and it should hopefully boost maybe transportation but certainly our accommodation offer.

Two points of concern, though – I too am a little bit of a Jonah. There are a couple of elements of the policy letter that do not entertain me. The first is the shortage of accommodation alluded to. I know in Alderney, when they are having events up there, including the proverbial Alderney Week, they have to host musicians and other participants in schools with camp beds. Are we
1635 going to suggest that, if we run out of hotels and accommodation? I think that is an area we need to plan ahead for.

And the other is we heard certain Members – Deputy Roffey, Deputy Fallaize and others – saying that they would probably be minded to vote against it if it was from general revenue. I think we do need to spend millions, quite frankly, on arts and sports. Deputy Lester Queripel talked about pots, and I was thinking of Pooh Bear, who is celebrating his 90th anniversary at the moment: he had pots of honey, and we have pots of money. I feel it is a little bit of political
1640 sophistry to say we can afford to spend this money because it comes out of diverse funds that were not spent, and of lotteries and so on. The reality is all of that money could be used to fund the Disability and Inclusion Strategy, or extra healthcare or some other very worthy project. We are in danger here of hypothecating funds.

I was shocked, to be honest – and I was on Culture & Leisure; that is how much I knew! *(Laughter)* – that we had this fund for sport that had not been used for six years due to bureaucracy and problems contained within it, an unfit-for-purpose way of accessing the money for the sporting institutions who are demanding more third sector participation in the States.
1650 Clearly there is work to do for Education, Sport & Leisure. On the other hand, I am pleased Deputy Le Pelley has this new role, but I am sorry he is the only survivor from the Culture & Leisure Board, as they all did excellent work for sports.

I do very much wish this endeavour well and will vote for it, but I think, like Deputy Lester Queripel, there are some more detailed questions to ask in relation to the future of the Sports Strategy and our relationship with supporting the third sector.
1655

The Bailiff: Deputy Soulsby and then Deputy Lowe.

Deputy Soulsby: Sir, I will be brief. There are two clear reasons why we should support this policy letter.
1660

First, it is going to be a shot in the arm for the tourist and hospitality sector on this Island. It has been going through a pretty hard time at the moment and, quite frankly, I just wish we could have the Games next week rather than have to wait another four or five years.

1665 Secondly – and Deputy Gollop is absolutely right – as President of the Committee for Health & Social Care, I have to support it as I can see how it can really help us meet the outcomes of our Healthy Weight Strategy and get people into sport and exercise. As I said in that debate, which was only a few months ago but it seems like two years, people will not listen to us as politicians telling them to get active, but are more likely to get out of their seats when they see role models – and what better than when we have hundreds of such role models coming to our Island and showing what they can do first hand? Indeed, if, like me back in 2003, you can get yourself a good road bike at a good price ... although it did eventually get mangled in the Grange.

1670 Saying all that, I may not be Chair of the Public Accounts Committee anymore but I do share the concerns of Deputy Fallaize and Deputy Roffey regarding level of funding, and I do believe it is probably understated and will not be surprised if we see a follow-up report in the future. However, that concern does not, to me, outweigh the benefits, and so I will be happy to support this Report.

The Bailiff: Deputy Graham is not rising. Deputy Lowe.

1680 **Deputy Lowe:** Thank you, sir. Does he want to go first?

The Bailiff: No. Deputy Lowe.

1685 **Deputy Lowe:** I fully support this, I really do, because I just think it is so good for the Island. Last time, it was absolutely brilliant and it certainly got everybody involved – even people who were not interested in sport attended and it was a great atmosphere, so I support this.

1690 However – and there is always a ‘however’ or a ‘but’ – there will be a huge cost on the Home Affairs Committee because security obviously has to be covered, and this is not actually in the figures that you have got before you today. Just as an example, it was £25,000 for the BIC, which was a small conference in a small area that needed the security.

1695 We all know in this day and age security is pretty paramount to get people to come to any sporting event or any things that happen around the world, so we want to make sure that security will be good; but there will be a cost and we will be looking at a lot more than the amount I have just said here. I have no idea how much it will cost, because it will be depending on the sporting facilities, and indeed on the borders as well, how much we need; but I do need to put a marker up. This is going to be added cost and it will be a lot of money, but I do support it and I really will support and encourage as many people as possible to go with this, bearing in mind this might be one of the exceptional circumstances that Deputy St Pier was talking about.

1700 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Graham, if he wishes to speak.

Deputy Graham: Thank you, sir.

1705 Like Deputy Mary Lowe, I am going to support this proposal and I have no reservations in doing so, and I would go further and say that within the context in which we are considering it today – and that context is a very short timeframe where a bid has to be got in pretty quickly – this proposal here is a well-written proposal which tells me personally all I need to know in order to make a decision today.

1710 I do have full confidence in the new Members of the relevant Committee. I do not envy them having to get their heads across this one at fairly short range. I take a lot of comfort too from the fact that Dame Mary Perkins is involved in this. In my long experience of her, she does not do failure and she brings to the whole enterprise really a brilliant business brain, but also the fact that

she has a tremendous track record in terms of the engagement between the third sector and civic undertakings. So I think we are in pretty good hands there.

1715 They certainly do not need me to advise them of the pitfalls that lie between now and the realisation of this; but having said that, I think Deputy Peter Roffey is quite correct to actually almost forecast the probability – perhaps inevitability – that a further report will probably come back, probably at a stage where our options to do something about it have narrowed considerably between now and then.

1720 If I may, I have got one particular question I did hope that Deputy Le Pelley might be able to answer by the end of this debate, and that concerns the rebuild of La Mare de Carteret. Not surprisingly, that was an issue in the Castel election campaign recently, and part of that issue was the question of the cost, clearly, and also the relevance within the overall scheme of what some people call the all-singing all-dancing sports hall. Sometimes when this was raised one heard, in justification of it, that actually this had the backing of the Sports Commission and indeed of the
1725 Culture & Leisure Department because it was almost a *sine qua non* of the undertaking to run the 2021 Island Games. I do not quite know what the answer to that rhetorical question is, but I would be very grateful if we could have it by the end, because I think it is pretty germane and it is not mentioned under the capital expenditure requirements in the proposal.

Thank you.

1730

The Bailiff: Deputy de Sausmarez.

Deputy de Sausmarez: Thank you, sir.

1735 I would like to speak in support of this proposal. I think it is very easy to get sucked in. I do not underestimate for a minute the significance of the sums of money involved and some of the challenges in terms of transport and accommodation; they are not insignificant. But I think there is a danger of allowing easily quantitative issues such as that to hold undue weight over qualitative considerations, and it is those qualitative considerations that I think are particularly pertinent in this debate.

1740 I was fortunate enough to be living in Sydney at the time of the 2000 Olympics and the positive effects on that community, both locally and nationally, were palpable – absolutely unbelievable.

1745 I think it is easy to dismiss things like legacy. Obviously, there are tangible legacy issues such as infrastructure and facilities, which are great, but I actually disagree with Deputy Roffey in terms of the softer legacy issues – the touchy, feely, perhaps fluffy stuff. I disagree it is a weak feel-good factor. My experience of it was it was extremely long-lasting, that brought the community together in a permanent way. It forged new community connections which had incredibly positive ramifications going on, and I lived there for several years afterwards.

1750 Picking up on Deputy Soulsby's point, I also have a cousin who owes his *life* to the London Olympics. He was so buoyed by the announcement that London had won the bid back in – what was it, 2005? He grabbed his bike, dusted it off from years of neglect and decided the following morning to cycle into work thereby avoiding getting on the Tube that was the victim of the 7/7 bombings the following day. And he has been cycling to work ever since, obviously.

1755 Also, as the mother of young children, I would agree that the aspirational value of something like the Island Games cannot be understated. There is nothing that compares to seeing members of your own community excelling. And I agree with Deputy Gollop that we punch above our weight in sporting terms and I am so proud of that. And my children – and I know the children that they are at school with, and their friends – are so excited by things like this and they are really inspired. And, again, it is not a temporary thing, it has a lasting legacy.

1760 So, for those reasons and many others, I would urge Members to support this. *(Applause)*

The Bailiff: Deputy Kuttelwascher.

Deputy Kuttelwascher: Sir, just a quickie – I just want to declare an interest.

1765 I am related to Dame Mary Perkins and in spite of that I will be supporting these Propositions.

I just have one observation – and I know that it was obviously for technical reasons. This was a policy letter produced by the last Commerce & Employment Department which has been presented by Deputy St Pier, and we have a list of signatures at the end of this which are those of the last Department. Couldn't this current Committee for Education, Sport & Culture have added an endorsement to this and stuck their signatures on this, if only for posterity? The only signature that appears on it is Deputy Le Pelley's. *(Interjections)*

1770 Well, no, of the last Department, the Commerce ... yes, the actual policy letter just has the signatures of the last ... I just think it would be a useful addition if that had happened because, really, the only person I know that definitely supports it would be Deputy Le Pelley. The other signatures do not appear, so you *presume*.

1775 It is just a thought.

Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Le Clerc.

1780

Deputy Le Clerc: Thank you, sir.

I will be supporting this wholeheartedly. I just want a couple of points of clarification from Deputy Le Pelley, and that is on the funding element. In paragraph 42 it says we have currently got £620,000 in the Appropriation Account and we need to use £600,000; and that only £200,000 will be required over the first four years.

1785

It also says in paragraph 44 that the account is expected to replenish over the next four years, but it does not indicate how much it is likely to replenish each year; but there must be some historical figures so that we could see how much is being replenished.

Also, over the page, it is saying that ... where are we? Culture & Leisure ... well, it is again through the Appropriation Account. So if that does not replenish then we are only left with £20,000 in that account in 2021, so that means that other areas will potentially suffer.

1790

The other thing is that the Report says there is going to be a specific Island Games Lottery – but again we have not got any indication, even a rough indication, of how much that might produce.

So it is just that I am concerned, in the worst case scenario if we do not get these appropriations to that account over the next four years and we do not know how much the specific lottery is going to generate, we might only have £20,000 left in that account. Listening to other Members today about concerns about it increasing, how much is likely to be in that pot that is left that would be able to be utilised?

1795

1800 So just some questions.

Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy St Pier.

1805 **Deputy St Pier:** Sir, I will perhaps just address Deputy Kuttelwascher's comments first, and I think Deputy Fallaize and a number of others have also noted the line of signatories to this policy letter. I think perhaps for the benefit, certainly of those outside this Assembly, it might just be worth explaining why.

Of course because of the timings in the new Rules around the submission of policy letters, in order for this to be debated today ahead of the AGM of the Association in July, and so that those attending that AGM could go in the knowledge that it either did or did not have the support of this Assembly, it simply needed to be submitted in a timely fashion immediately after my election as President of Policy & Resources. And 48 hours after that election I had supreme executive authority to do anything and this was one of the things that I did do. *(Interjections and laughter)*

1810

1815 That is for me to know and you to find out!

Sir, hopefully that does explain that – it was simply to enable it to be debated today.

1820 The other reason I rise, sir – and it has not arisen in debate but I think it is worth putting on the record for the avoidance of doubt ... It was something the Policy & Resources Committee did pick up and discuss, and we do wish to make it absolutely clear. In paragraph 32 there is a sentence which reads:

‘This report is recommending a commitment from the States to match that sum,’

1825 – which is referring to the sums privately raised with a grant-funded contribution of £750,000. This is not a matching process. I think others have already noted it is irrespective of the sum raised from the private sector; this is a grant of £750,000 and the Resolutions are quite clear in that regard. But I just wanted to make it quite clear, given that sentence, that there is no ambiguity around that.

1830 So Deputies Gollop and Roffey, I think, have in essence made comments about the pots of money that sit in various places and their uses, and I think those are valid comments that we do need to take into account as we consider the assets and funding for the States as a whole, that we have created some apparently ring-fenced funds for certain uses – and how appropriate that is in the future is something that perhaps does need some consideration. But that is the situation as it currently lies in relation to these particular funds.

1835 Deputy Lowe has raised, on behalf of the Committee for Home Affairs, the question of additional potential revenue costs in that year around security. I would also refer Members to paragraph 36 which refers to the potential additional capital spend on the track – and there is a figure that should not exceed £1 million. I can advise Members that there is a capital bid in relation to that – but I cannot give Members any further details because I have not seen them and my Committee has not yet considered that. The point in drawing attention to both of those issues is effectively if the States approve this policy letter today they will, to all intents and purposes, be, I would suggest, pre-prioritising those spending decisions as well – which, of course, is something that this Assembly does do from time to time in the absence of a policy resource plan, driving us back to the need for that.

1840 I would suggest, perhaps given the comments of Deputy de Sausmarez and others in relation to the other benefits of this kind of project, these decisions will be much easier in the future in the context of us having a clear Policy & Resource plan and a clear direction of travel, that do set out our aspirations. It will make these decisions much easier rather than constantly making them in isolation and then accepting the consequential impacts of them, including the ones which Deputy Lowe very helpfully referred to, sir.

1850 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

Deputy Ferbrache: Sir, I think it is following on really from points made by Deputy St Pier and Deputy Graham.

1855 What the States do not want and what the public of Guernsey do not want in the future are nasty surprises – it is also Deputy Roffey’s and Deputy Lester Queripel’s point in a slightly different context. If the bid in due course is predicated on the basis that this all-singing all-dancing sports hall at the Mare de Carteret is built, but it is not then we are in trouble. If it is built on the basis that we are going to spend £750,000 when we come back – and Deputy Roffey and Deputy Queripel are right and it is £1,250,000, or whatever it may be – then we are in trouble.

1860 What Deputy St Pier said earlier this morning when he was giving his ... not doom and gloom, but his speech about the Island’s finances, is that they are in difficult order; and that is not likely to improve in the foreseeable future whatever steps we take as a States in five or six months’ time or whenever we debate the issue. So we have got to ensure that the £750,000 – it is Deputy Queripel’s point – is properly spent and properly accounted for.

1865 We have also got to say, as a States, ‘We of course are responsible, but *you* in the private sector are responsible; you have got to make a contribution not just in your time and effort ... ’

1870 And I agree with Deputy Graham, we have got the best ambassador for this, the best chairperson – and you cannot say chairman or chairlady nowadays because you are being sexist; but the best *chairperson* for that job – in Dame Mary Perkins. She does not do failure, she will put one thousand per cent effort into it and she is a team player, and she will make sure that the team will bring this forward. There will be a separate de Sausmarez as a legacy; not a legacy of the fallen and loss of saviour, etc., but the legacy of good will.

1875 And as President of the Committee for Economic Development, I can see the economic benefits of it because it is not just a tax take, it is not just the £2 million or £2½ million or whatever the money that comes to be spent in due course, it is the fact that people will come to this Island, they will talk about this Island, and it will attract good will for this Island; and in due course, post-2021, it will attract other people.

1880 The 2003 Island Games followed on the Olympics in Sydney of 2000 and that was thought to be, at the time, the best Olympics in the modern era. The 2003 Island Games, because of the efforts of so many people and the citizens of Guernsey, was the best Island Games ever. I am confident that the 2021 Games – as long as we get some sunshine and as long as we get some good weather – will be of that ilk.

1885 Deputy Queripel is right about the transport links, they have got to be sorted out – we have got five years – or four years in this Assembly at least, to sort those out. I have very little doubt that Condor, if it has got a contract by that date; and Aurigny, if it is still around – and I hope it is – by that date; and the other providers know that they will be on their mettle too to make sure that the services they provide for the Island Games in 2021 are of the first order.

1890 So there will be tangible and there will be intangible benefits; but doesn't it say something for Guernsey that, as Deputy Gollop says, effectively with a quarter of the number of the athletes that there were in the London Games of four years ago, we as an Island of 24 square miles and 63,000 people can put something on like that?

It is something that we can only vote 'yes' on.

The Bailiff: I see no one else. Deputy Le Pelley will reply to the debate.

1895 **Deputy Le Pelley:** Deputy Le Pelley will try, sir!

My first comments, really, refer to Deputy Queripel: some people are half-glass full or half-glass empty; I got the impression the Deputy Queripel's barrel is completely drained! (*Laughter*)

You have asked a lot of detailed questions and I have to say to you, through the Chair, that I have not got all that detail that you are requiring, I am afraid.

1900 There will be *superb* benefits to the Island as a result of a 'yes' vote in this Assembly today. We are looking to actually raise our game, to raise the status of the Island. We have heard this morning from Deputy St Pier of the situation this Island is in – we have just had the figures given to us, relating to 2015 and the 2016 outlook is looking a little bit gloomy.

1905 But we do have to show people on the outside that this Island is open for business and we do have to rely on feel-good factors. We are going to have to really, really, really put every effort into this. And yes, I am going to have to put my reputation at risk – I can see no other way, I am the President of the responsible Committee and whichever way you go, whatever way you tell me to go, or whatever you tell me to do it is going to be my name on the top of that paper that is going to be most at risk. That is why I shall be working extremely hard to mitigate those risks and to encourage as many people, whether they be within this States' Assembly or whether they be out in the private sector, to actually buy into and give every possible support that they can.

1910 There will be thousands of extra visitors – of that I have no doubt whatsoever. There will be monetary benefits from the various people travelling to the Island and staying here. There have been questions asked around: what about accommodation?

1915 Many years ago I was lucky to do an exchange visit to the United States and they had something in the region of about 12,000 people that they had to accommodate – it was a scout jamboree. Most of those people were actually accommodated by home hospitality. There will be, I

1920 am absolutely certain, a terrific response from the local Islanders who are going to be involved – and we are not just talking about the participants who will be running on track and field, or sailing or wherever the final sports are, it is going to be all of the people who are involved as officials who will also be available to help support the actual Games.

1925 And I cannot tell you that there is no risk. There is a risk; there has to be a risk. There is nothing, I think, that has no risk. So what I am asking you to do is to give your support to this particular policy letter which is in good faith – and we are asking for you to give us your support in good faith – and we will do our *absolute* best to make sure that this works. And I can only say time and time again that we as a board, we as an Island and we as a States body, have to make it work – we have to do our very, very best.

1930 We have had explanations about how this money is going to be raised. We have got three funds and those funds were put in place for the various purposes, and we are actually asking to use them for the purposes for which they were put there. So we are not actually breaking or bending any rules in that way.

1935 I will mention various questions, and people spoke in a particular order and various points were asked in a particular order, but I have got so many pieces of paper that I was writing notes on that I am just going to have to give you little bitty answers, I am afraid, because to try and get it altogether ... if I had had the lunch hour I probably could have done that.

1940 We will be looking to bring costs down. The group that is putting in the bid have drawn together and made a serious assessment of what the costs are going to be. They are in desperate need of support, or not, so that they can go to an AGM of the Island Games which is going to be held in a few weeks from now, in July. We really do need to push this through because they need to know exactly what their plan is going to be.

1945 I think Deputy St Pier has explained exactly how it all came about – I *am* the last man standing from Culture & Leisure, but Culture & Leisure were fully and unanimously in support of this particular activity going ahead. We have had the officials from the local association and also from the Islands Association visit the Island earlier in the year and they have looked at the facilities and they are quite happy that Guernsey could provide everything that is required as it stands.

1950 Somebody has asked what would the policy be about the build down at the Mare de Carteret. The build down at the Mare de Carteret would be lovely; it would fit a lot of purposes. But I cannot give you an undertaking as to whether that will go ahead or will not go ahead; I cannot even tell you at the moment what the Education, Sport & Culture Committee's view of that is. We are in such early days that we have not actually got that agreement around our table. But what I can tell you is that we are pretty sure that even if nothing happens down at the Mare de Carteret the existing facilities would be good enough. They might not be as superb as we would like them to be, but they will be good enough.

1955 And there are other things which are in the pipeline that need to be renovated and improved – things down at Footes Lane, the athletics track and various other things that are going to cost money to improve are going to be improved whether we get an Island Games or not. Something that has got a guaranteed life to 2019, which is the lifespan of the athletics track, is going to have to be changed in 2019 whether we get the Island Games or not.

1960 So we are already committed to spending that kind of money to get those kinds of facilities up and running, so having the Island Games on top of them as well is a bonus but it is not going to cost us any more money to get those facilities up and improved as they need to be done anyway.

1965 The question about transportation – and thank you, Deputy Gollop, for explaining about the situation with the buses in the past – I think the transport costs have been factored in there because we do not have a guarantee of what the actual bus fleet will look like in 2021 – and I shall be looking to other people who are going to be in charge of making sure there is a bus service in those days, to help us out.

This is going to be a States of Guernsey team effort. There is no way that you are going to be able to get one particular group in society to develop all this or to present all this, or even one States' Department. It has got to be a buy-in from the whole Island. My Committee will be making

1970 sure that we are engaging with everybody else who is attached to us to make sure that people do buy into it. (*Interjection*)

The Bailiff: Deputy Brehaut.

1975 **Deputy Brehaut:** I would like to thank the President for giving way.

Sorry, yes, thank you – it was just because the bus service has been referred to.

In the 2003 Games they had no bus drivers or minibus drivers, so they had to pay for minibus and bus drivers to come to the Island. They had to pay their accommodation costs on-Island – and some of those were in private houses – and they had to hire minibuses on top of that.

1980 So I am supportive, cautiously, but the potential to spend more than we intended to is there, wherever you look, actually.

Thank you.

Deputy Le Pelley: Thank you.

1985 Deputy Roffey is a tight Guernseyman – but I can assure him he is not as tight as I am. We will have to have a competition of who is the tighter. And I shall certainly be trying to drive everything down.

I think it is pretty well known around this Assembly that I am pretty critical of leakage within States' Departments and the Civil Service department of money that is being allowed to seep away. I am really on the case and I am not going to be allowing any kind of money to go where it is not absolutely required. I will give you that as undertaking and that is part of the risk to my reputation that somebody was asking me about; the Committee will be looking very closely.

1990 Two Members – Deputy Graham and I cannot remember who else it was – mentioned Dame Mary Perkins as being, not a guarantor as such, but in a way she is because we know that her standards are so high and her commitment is so high, and that she does not do failure, will actually be something of a guarantee. I will give you *my* guarantee that I will be absolutely everywhere trying to make sure that this works at the lowest possible cost but with the highest possible outcome and value for the Games.

2000 We are talking about long-term legacies and I notice that the *Press* were very supportive of this – which may be a bit suspicious. (*Laughter*) But they were also saying please do not rely too much on long-term legacy, because they were questioning whether long-term legacy was something that you really ought to buy into.

2005 But there *will* be a long-term legacy. We have heard Deputy Soulsby mention about the Health and Weight Strategy. I do not know what the figures are for unhealthy children in this Island but I am pretty sure that the direction of travel from when I was a youngster to where I am now is that we have got unhealthier. I think we do need to address very quickly the health of our young people – and older people – and anything like this which is going to encourage extra activity is to be applauded. I think if we look very closely at this we will find that we will have a healthier population at the end of it all and we will have better facilities which will be available from 2022, 2010 2023 and onwards. There will be more sporting involvement by youngsters.

2015 We also have a chance here ... and I think the report from Jersey when they were talking about what they did in 2015, is that we are going to be on the world scene. These Islands that are going to participate are going to be from all over the world and that is going to generate worldwide coverage. What a chance for Guernsey to say it is open for business; what a chance for Guernsey to actually raise its sporting standards. It is a shame that hockey is not going to be in the Island Games – hockey was my sport when I was younger and it is one of those things where we would probably get a gold medal.

2020 But we will be raising the standards and we will encourage people to do sports other than the 14 that have been identified as the ones that will be in competition on the Island at the time. We have a marvellous cricket team; we have got some very good netball teams; we have got some

very good volleyball teams – we have got all sorts of activities that are going on *intra insula* which we need to boost and to encourage people to get involved in.

2025 We have got a tennis star who came within an ace, almost literally, of actually beating one of the Williams' sisters last year at Wimbledon. All this encourages participation in sport and makes us all feel, as an Island community, much happier. We are a much better place to be in with all this kind of success.

2030 We are talking about the benefits: Jersey stated that they put in £600,000 of States' money and they reckon that their return was about £4 million. We are looking to put in something in the region of £750,000 and I am anticipating that we would probably get a return of about £3 million. That is a guesstimate and I have not got all the figures, Deputy Lester Queripel, to show line by line, pounds, shillings and pence – sorry, giving my age away, there; pounds and pence – how we are actually going to get the money in.

2035 But I am absolutely certain that general revenue will not be ... I am hoping that it will not be touched at all, or as little as possible. I see heads saying, 'Ooh, we will see!' We do have to take a risk and, as I said before, nothing has no risk and we are looking for the private sector to come and join in with us.

2040 Just to explain, our turn originally for the Island Games was 2027 but the Faroe Islands withdrew at the last minute and we were then invited to retender to bring our time forward. This will be our third time of staging the Games ... and I give way to Deputy Queripel.

Deputy Lester Queripel: Sir, I thank Deputy Le Pelley for giving way.

2045 I get the feeling he is not going to answer any of my questions, so I am not going to be fully informed to enable me to vote. I am wondering, sir, if I can put at least four of those questions to him again? It will not require too much detail and if he does respond in the affirmative I can then decide which way to vote.

Would you allow me to put four more questions to him that I have already put?

The Bailiff: That is not a proper use of the give-way Rule, because it is not advancing the debate, as you have already put the questions in your speech.

2050 I think you can wait until Deputy Le Pelley finishes his speech. He has already said he does not have some of the information to answer some of your questions.

2055 When he has finished his closing speech you have in the past, and you may again, step up and say if you think there is something that has not been covered. But it is not a proper use of the give-way Rule, no.

Deputy Lester Queripel: Okay, sir, thank you.

Deputy Le Pelley: Thank you, sir.

2060 The question was also asked about why some of the money had not been used from one of the sports funds for some six years, and I am afraid I cannot remember who exactly asked it. But the answer to that question is because there is a 5% fee or interest attached to it – that is a Government requirement. At the present time it is possible for people to get money at a lower rate than that, so therefore that money is not being borrowed from us.

2065 At Culture & Leisure we did actually look about two or three years ago to see if that amount of interest could be varied and the answer was no, it could not – and that is why that money has been allowed to accumulate; there have been no borrowers.

2070 Deputy Lowe asked about Home Affairs and security and pointed out that there was going to be some extra cost. The costings that we have in the appendix are the figures that have been given to us by the Association which has been putting in the claim and I have not got a further breakdown on that, I am afraid. If you want me to get answers back to you I am happy to give you written replies when I have been able to get back to the source.

2075 I think Deputy Kuttelwascher meant Culture & Leisure when he said Commerce & Employment, but he was also talking about timing and why is it only my name on there. I think Deputy St Pier stood up and actually explained that. We just did not have the time to actually take the whole of the documentation back to the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture. It was already in line. The President of P&R stood in on our behalf in order to get it in time for this debate. But the Education, Sport & Culture Department do fully endorse it. It has been discussed at one of our recent board meetings, or committee meetings, and we are all supportive of it.

2080 Deputy Ferbrache, you do not want any nasty surprises – well, neither do I! I do not think any of us do. We are in difficult times. We do need the private sector to become engaged. There will be economic benefits. From 2000 to 2003 there was a superb reaction to the Sydney Games when we had the Island Games here three years later. I know that 2012 to 2021 is something of a longer gap, but I think that with the 2016 Olympic Games about to be with us, we are actually going to be able to build on that feel good factor.

2085 I will sit down now, sir, because I know Deputy Queripel wants to ask the questions again that I have not answered and perhaps I will be able to make a closer note of them. I do not have all the details so I am afraid you might be disappointed.

2090 I do urge people to actually support this policy letter and to give this the support that we desperately need to give to the people who are going to the AGM of the Island Games Association. They need our support. We need the kind of business that they can bring to this Island, because we need to actually come out of the doldrums – because that is where we are going at the moment. We really do need to actually make this work and I will look for your support.

2095 Thank you, sir.

The Bailiff: Deputy Lester Queripel.

Deputy Lester Queripel: Thank you, sir.

2100 I am surprised and somewhat concerned that the staff have not provided the President with all the information he needs.

The Bailiff: Is this a further speech?

Deputy Lester Queripel: No, sir. It is just to ... I will get into my questions.

2105 I appreciate he is somewhat exposed and isolated, sir, but he was on the previous Culture & Leisure board, so surely he can answer some of these questions.

Sir, does he have any concerns regarding transport links; and if he does, what will he be doing to improve those transport links?

2110 **The Bailiff:** You will have one bite at this, Deputy Queripel. I am really indulging you somewhat in allowing you to really repeat what you have already said. If you are going to ask for further bites you will be testing my patience beyond breaking point.

2115 **Deputy Lester Queripel:** Sir, just for clarification then, how many questions will you allow me to ask?

2120 **The Bailiff:** The point is you have already asked them. Deputy Le Pelley says he does not have the answers. He is happy to provide the answers subsequently. This often happens in debate. If there is something that you feel that he genuinely has not understood or heard then you can repeat that question, but otherwise you are just repeating what you have already said and if we had everybody standing up and doing that we would never term any debates. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.)

2125 Sometimes you stand up when somebody has clearly overlooked the questions you have asked. On this occasion he has not overlooked them, he has said, 'I do not have the answers to the questions that Deputy Lester Queripel is asking me.' So he indicated he is willing to give way to you and therefore I allowed that, but as I say, you have got one bite at it, but I do think you are just repeating what you have already said and you are not going to make any headway. If as a result of that you do not have the information you need then your option is to vote against the Propositions.

2130

Deputy Lester Queripel: In that case, sir, I do not feel fully informed so I will abstain from the vote.

Thank you, sir.

2135

The Bailiff: Deputy Le Pelley, had you finished or were you giving –?

Deputy Le Pelley: I had indeed finished, sir.

The Bailiff: Fine.

2140

In that case, we go to the vote on the Propositions that are marked P. 2016/5. There are effectively three Propositions, but I put them all to you together.

A Member: Can we have a recorded vote, please, sir?

2145

The Bailiff: We will have a recorded vote on all of the Propositions, unless anybody requests them to be voted on separately – which nobody is doing so it is a recorded vote on all the Propositions on P. 2016/5.

There was a recorded vote.

Carried – Pour 35, Contre 0, Ne vote pas 1, Absent 4

POUR

Deputy Graham
Deputy Green
Deputy Paint
Deputy Dorey
Deputy Le Tocq
Deputy Brouard
Deputy Dudley-Owen
Deputy Yerby
Deputy De Lisle
Deputy Langlois
Deputy Soulsby
Deputy De Sausmarez
Deputy Roffey
Deputy Prow
Deputy Oliver
Deputy Ferbrache
Deputy Kuttelwascher
Deputy Tindall
Deputy Brehaut
Deputy Tooley
Deputy Gollop
Deputy Parkinson
Deputy Le Clerc
Deputy Leadbeater
Deputy Mooney
Deputy Le Pelley
Deputy Merrett

CONTRE

None

NE VOTE PAS

Deputy Lester Queripel

ABSENT

Alderney Rep. Jean
Alderney Rep. McKinley
Deputy Trott
Deputy Jones

Deputy St Pier
Deputy Stephens
Deputy Meerveld
Deputy Fallaize
Deputy Lowe
Deputy Laurie Queripel
Deputy Smithies
Deputy Hansmann
Rouxel

2150 **The Bailiff:** Members, the result of the voting on the Education, Sport & Culture Committee's Island Games 2021 Proposal Propositions was 35 in favour, with one abstention. I cannot say it was unanimous but I can say there was *nem. con.* (*Laughter*) It carried *nem. con.*

There is just one other item of business which I propose we deal with without rising for lunch.

**Schedule for Future States' Business –
Proposition carried**

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 Meeting of the 28th June and subsequent States' Meetings, they are of opinion to approve the Schedule.

2155 **The Bailiff:** Does anybody wish to propose any amendment to the Schedule for Future States' Business? If not, I do not think we need to go to the vote on it. Nobody is proposing any amendment. That will be the Schedule for Future States' Business. You will see we will be back here on 28th June for the special meeting for the States' Accounts and then here again on the following day.

The Assembly adjourned at 12.39 a.m.