



OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

STATES OF ELECTION

OF THE

ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

HANSARD

Royal Court House, Guernsey, Wednesday, 17th January 2018

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Present:

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

Jurats

B. J. Bartie, J. Ferguson, Esq., S. M. Jones Esq.,
C. A. E. Helyar-Wilkinson, D. P. L. Hodgetts, Esq., L. V. O.,
N. D. McCathie, Esq., T. J. Ferbrache, Esq., D. A. Grut, Esq., J. G. Hooley, Esq.,
S. J. Morris, Esq., D. J. Mortimer, Esq., J. M. Wyatt, A. S. Boyle, Esq., P. Gill, Esq.

Rectors

Rev. M. R. Charmley, Rev. T.W. Dack, The Very Rev. T.R. Barker,
Rev. M. E. J. Barrett, Rev. K.A. Dack, Rev. A. Datta

Law Officers

M. M. E. Pullum, Q.C. (H.M. Procureur)
R. Titterington, Esq. Q.C. (H.M. Comptroller)

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

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

The Vale

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

The Castel

Deputies R. 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, D. de G. de Lisle, S. L. Langlois

The South-East

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

Representatives of the Parish Douzaines

St Peter Port

D. H. Le Moignan, J. M. Tasker, C. Goodlass, K. E. Jones, J. Robin,
D. Falla, J. Galliene, Z. Lihou, C. Meinke, S. Place

St Sampson

D. Corson, L. Le Tissier, I. Le Page, A. Le Cheminant, R. Gill

The Vale

G. Collins, W. Le Page, M. Torode, P. Devenport, A. Goubert

The Castel

M. Fooks, R. Marquis, R. Cook, N. Acton, J. Beausire

St Saviour

D Bertrand

St Pierre du Bois

M. Dunster

Torteval

N. Addlesee

The Forest

R. L. Heaume, M. B. E.

St Martin

R. Clark, P. Soulsby, L. Hill-Tout, K. Jones

St Andrew

M. Thwaite

The Clerk to the States of Election

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

Absent at the Evocation

Madame C. H. Le Pelley, Juré (*absente*); Deputy E. A. Yerby, (*absente*)

Business transacted

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States of Election

The States met at 9.30 a.m.

[THE BAILIFF *in the Chair*]

PRAYER

The Senior Deputy Greffier

EVOCATION

CONVOCATION

The Senior Deputy Greffier: Billet d'Etat I of 2018.

5 To the Members of the States of Election of the Island of Guernsey, I hereby give notice that a meeting of the States of Election will be held at the Royal Court House, on Wednesday 17th January 2018 at 9.30 a.m. for the purpose of electing a Jurat in place of Jurat Peter Sean Trueman Girard who, pursuant to section 10(1) of the Royal Court (Reform) (Guernsey) Law 2008, as amended, will cease to hold office by reason of age on 31st December 2017 but who has been appointed by the Royal Court as a Juré-Justicier Suppléant.

Election of a Jurat – Mr David Robilliard elected

10 **The Bailiff:** Members of the States of Election, good morning to you and thank you all for attending. I confirm that we have a quorum present. I have received one nomination for the vacant office of Juré-Justicier, that of David John Robilliard who is proposed by Deputy M J Fallaize and seconded by Deputy R H Graham.

15 I invite the proposer of Mr Robilliard, Deputy Fallaize, to address the Assembly.
Deputy Fallaize.

Deputy Fallaize: Thank you, sir.

20 Members of the States of Election, whether to elect David Robilliard as a Jurat is perhaps not the most difficult question some of us will face this week. I say that not because he is the only candidate – though he is – but because he would be an outstanding candidate for Jurat among any field of nominations.

David is known to most, if not all, of the Members of the States of Election and is well known to many of us. Members know of his experience and skills and therefore my speech proposing him will be mercifully short.

25 The 'Boy Robilliard' as he may then have been known out west, was born in 1952. His full-time education started at Torteval Infants School and finished at the Grammar School for Boys, whereupon he went straight into the finance industry with Midland Bank. At this point I should perhaps reassure the Jurats' Bench that most of the historic institutions David has been involved with were not later abolished. *(Laughter)* He then went to work at Lloyd's Bank for eight years in

30 Trust, Estate and Personal Tax administration, and then in 1982 he began a 35-year career in public service.

David has been H.M. Deputy Greffier during two separate spells; Principal Assistant to the States' Supervisor; Deputy Registrar General of Electors, where he effectively ran several general Elections; Head of External and Constitutional Affairs; Principal Officer to the States' Assembly and
35 Constitution Committee; and most recently Secretary to the Bailiff. I think he was also Secretary of the Parole Review Committee, possibly its first Secretary, in that he effectively set up the secretarial function to that Committee.

His roles in public service have been characterised by the need for professionalism, wise counsel, discretion, reliability and an ability quickly to obtain a thorough understanding of both
40 procedures and people. These qualities, among others, contribute towards David being such an excellent candidate for Jurat.

His various community interests past and present are too numerous to list, so I will pick out just a few: Guernsey representative on the General Synod of the Church of England; Church Warden of Torteval; Treasurer and then Vice-President of the West United Agricultural and
45 Horticultural Society – in fact he served that organisation for more than a quarter of a century. David is a man rooted in our Guernsey community and indeed in his very local community in the western parishes. He also served a term as Procureur of the Poor in Torteval and separately a term as Constable of Torteval.

I will say a few words about my personal knowledge of David which dates back nearly 20 years, when I came to know him just a little when I was working for the *Press* and he was involved with
50 General Synod, and in some of his roles in the States. I then worked with him during a very brief and exceptionally inglorious Civil Service career – that is mine, not his – (*Laughter*) but I got to know him very much better when I became member of the States' Assembly and Constitution Committee, and then its Chairman, and he was the Principal Officer.

His advice was always well considered on almost any matter, whether political or personal. He was never one to rush to judgement, but after thorough consideration he was always firm in his recommendations. And David, even where he held policy views – which frankly was quite often –
55 he was always fair, impartial and balanced in the advice he offered. I have no doubt that he will make an exceptional Jurat and I thoroughly commend him to the States of Election.

60 **The Bailiff:** Thank you very much and I would like the seconder of Mr Robilliard, Deputy Graham, to address the Assembly.

Deputy Graham: Thank you, Mr Bailiff.

65 Members of the States of Election, when David Robilliard asked if I would second his nomination I did not hesitate for one moment. At the time I did not know that he was going to be the only candidate but it would not have made a difference – and I mention that because whether he is the only candidate or whether there was a competition today, I am not going to say one word more or one word less than I would otherwise have done.

70 What is my confidence in his nomination? I have always been intrigued by the 'qualities approach' to these nominations here and in our elections. I understand why we do it, we list the qualities that we think are necessary in order to be an effective Jurat and we then tick off those qualities against the candidate – job done. I do not disapprove of that but I have to say I am not totally convinced by it, I do not necessarily think it has to be that complicated.

75 I do know that in all the years that I was a soldier I could not help but notice that, for example, some people made quite a good living out of writing about the qualities of military leadership. But the more you looked at this the more, certainly I noted, that really some of the great military leaders whether right up there or just at company or battalion level, they were great military leaders for entirely opposite reasons, and people of total different qualities and character just
80 came along and did the job. The key thing really was if you knew what the job entailed and if you

knew the bloke you could make an easy decision, and somehow you just knew that some people were up to it and others were not.

85 I apply the same sort of thinking really to that of an election of Jurat. I have known Jurats over the years who have been absolutely great Jurats for an entirely different reason; Jurats with totally different qualities and attributes. So to me it is quite simple really, we know what we require of Jurats, we require them to sit in judgement of us and our fellow Islanders, and knowing that and knowing the bloke do we think he, or sometimes she, can do it? In my case I do know David very well indeed, I had the privilege of working alongside him for a number of years and I just know that he is made for the job.

90 How do I know? Well it was when I was working at Government House and David was working for the Government, and very often it was his role to act as the go-between and the middleman and the soother-over of temperaments on those rare occasions, sir, when Bailiffs, Lieutenant Governors and Chief Ministers did not see eye-to-eye on every single issue. *(Laughter)* All I can say is that David was made for the job.

95 The crucial question for me is, am I confident that David should sit in judgement in the Royal Court of our fellow citizens and ourselves? And perhaps even more important, if he did not know me from Adam would I be confident for him to judge me? I would, and I suggest that, Members of the States of Election, you do too.

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

Well, Members of the States of Election, before you proceed to vote you must elect scrutineers. The Law Officers propose and second that the following nominees, Jurat Steven Morris, Deputy Paul Le Pelley and Deputy Laurie Queripel, be elected as scrutineers.

105 I put to you the Proposition that Jurat Steven Morris, Deputy Paul Le Pelley and Deputy Laurie Queripel be elected as scrutineers. Those in favour; those against.

Members voted Pour.

The Bailiff: No need for a recorded vote, I declare that carried.

110 I remind you of a number of matters required under the provisions of the Reform Law: first, voting will be by secret ballot even though there is a single candidate; second, he will not be elected unless he secures more than half the number of Members present today – there are 93 Members present so he will require 47 votes to be elected. Thirdly, if you wish to vote for Mr Robilliard place an X alongside his name on the voting paper; if not, return a blank voting paper.

115 Once again the voting will take place in the Jurats' Room and the lobby outside this Chamber. Members should proceed in the order of their names on the roll call as follows: as last time the roll call has been divided in three. The first section contains the names of those Members up to and including St Peter Port South – that is up to and including Deputy Tooley; the second section contains the names of the Members from St Peter Port North, starting with Deputy Gollop, up to and including the South East, Deputy Oliver.

120 Electors in those two sections should form into two queues along the corridor to the Jurats' Room. On entering the Jurats' Room, the Members in the first section should proceed to the table on the left and the second section to the table on the right to collect their ballot paper. After voting, please exit the Jurats' Room via the Jurats' Lobby.

125 The third section contains the names of all the Douzaine representatives. Electors in that section are to form a single queue and will vote in the lobby outside this Chamber. After voting, please move through to the cloakroom adjacent to the lobby until the Douzaine representative for St Andrews has voted. After voting has been completed you are requested to return to the Chamber.

Will you please now allow Her Majesty's Greffier and the scrutineers to leave the Chamber first, so that the scrutineers can examine the voting boxes and record their votes.

Please allow the scrutineers to leave and then you may leave and record your votes. Thank you.

There was a ballot.

130 **The Bailiff:** Well, Members of the States of Election, I have received from Her Majesty's Deputy Greffier the record of the vote, and the report of the scrutineers reads as follows:

We have the honour to report that the result of the ballot for the election of one Jurat held this day is as follows: Robilliard, David John, 80 votes. There were no spoilt papers and 13 blank papers.

So as Mr Robilliard has polled a number of votes greater than one half of the numbers present, I therefore declare him elected as a Jurat of the Royal Court.

135 By time-honoured custom and practice I shall now address Her Majesty's Sheriff and direct her formally to notify Mr Robilliard of his election and to require him to attend the Royal Court to take the necessary oath.

Madame le Prévôt de la Reine, veuillez, je vous prie, présenter mes compliments et mes félicitations à Monsieur Robilliard et lui faire part de son élection à la charge de Juré-Justicier de la Cour Royale.

140 *Priez-lui d'avoir l'obligeance de se présenter lundi, le vingt-deux janvier à neuf heures et demi du matin devant la Cour Royale siégeant en Corps afin que le serment attachant à telle charge lui soit administré.*

Thank you very much.

145 Members of the States of Election, as you know this is a unique electoral college which fulfils an important contributory role in the administration of justice in this Island. I thank you all very much for your attendance, and I remind those of you who are Members of the States of Deliberation that the States will sit in 10 minutes' time, at 10 past 10.

Her Majesty's Greffier, will you now close today's proceedings with the closing Grace.

PRAYER

The Senior Deputy Greffier

The States of Election adjourned at 10.00 a.m.