



**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**STATES OF DELIBERATION**

**OF THE**

**ISLAND OF GUERNSEY**

**HANSARD**

**Remote Meeting, Guernsey, Wednesday, 17th March 2021**

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official States of Guernsey website [www.gov.gg](http://www.gov.gg)*

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**Present:**

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

**Law Officers**

M. M. E. Pullum, Q.C. (H.M. Procureur)

**People's Deputies**

S. E. Aldwell	C. J. Le Tissier
C. P. A Blin	J. P. Le Tocq
A. H. Brouard	M. P. Leadbeater
Y. Burford	D. J. Mahoney
T. L. Bury	A. D. S. Matthews
A. Cameron	L. J. McKenna
D. de G. de Lisle	C. P. Meerveld
H. L. de Sausmarez	N. G. Moakes
A. C. Dudley-Owen	R. C. Murray
J. F. Dyke	V. S. Oliver
S. P. Fairclough	C. N. K. Parkinson
S. J. Falla	R. G. Prow
P. T. R. Ferbrache	L. C. Queripel
A. Gabriel	P. J. Roffey
J. A. B. Gollop	H. J. R. Soulsby
S. P. Haskins	G. A. St Pier
M. A. J. Helyar	A. W. Taylor
N. R. Inder	L. S. Trott
A. Kazantseva-Miller	S. P. J. Vermeulen

**Representatives of the Island of Alderney**

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

**The Clerk to the States of Deliberation**

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

**Absent at the Evocation**

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

## **Business transacted**

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## States of Deliberation

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

[THE BAILIFF *in the Chair*]

**The Bailiff:** Good morning, Members of the States, and a warm welcome to His Excellency, who is joining us.

I will now invite the Greffier to open the Meeting when the screen changes to show that we are  
5 starting.

### PRAYERS

*The States' Greffier*

### EVOCATION

## Billet d'État VI

### CONVOCATION

**The States' Greffier:** Billet d'État VI of 2020.

To the Members of the States of the Island of Guernsey, I hereby give notice that a Meeting of the States of Deliberation will be held via Microsoft Teams Live, on Wednesday, 17th March 2021 at 9.30 a.m. to consider the item listed in this Billet d'État, which has been submitted for debate.

### POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

#### **I. Government Work Plan – Stage 1 – Debate deferred to following week**

*Article I.*

*The States are asked to decide:*

*Whether, after consideration of the 'Government Work Plan – stage 1' policy letter dated 12th February, 2021, they are of the opinion:-*

*1. To agree that the three main priorities of government at this time are:*

- Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic;*
- Managing the effects of Brexit; and*
- Delivering the recovery actions;*

2. To agree the recovery outcomes that are intended to be delivered by the Government Work Plan, as set out in Appendix 2, and to endorse the approach to measure, monitor and report on progress, as set out in section 10 of this policy letter;
3. To note the emerging recovery actions as set out in Appendix 6 of this policy letter, recognising that some of these actions are subject to resourcing decisions not yet made and that identifying the resourcing requirements to discharge extant Resolutions, legislative drafting, capital and public service reform projects remains work in progress and will all be considered by the States in stage 2;
4. To direct all Committees of the States to recognise and give due consideration to the States' resource constraints by prioritising the progression of its' agreed three priorities above other work streams (as set out in Proposition 1), and to agree that it may not be possible to progress all recovery actions during this term;
5. To direct the Policy & Resources Committee, working with the Committees of the States, to bring a second policy letter on the Government Work Plan to be considered by the States at a Special Meeting to be convened on 21st July, 2021. That policy letter will include:
  - confirmation of the resource commitments and allocation for each of the three priorities of government;
  - the measures and targets for each recovery action and anticipated timeframes for delivery as far as can be determined; and
  - the scheduling of the recovery actions, revised as necessary to reflect resource availability;
6. In line with Proposition 2, to direct the Policy & Resources Committee to establish a pragmatic and proportionate monitoring framework to report annually to the States on the three priorities set out in the Government Work Plan, and to direct all Committees of the States to work within this framework and report through the Policy & Resources Committee;
7. To rescind or transfer the extant Resolutions in Appendix 3;
8. To delete and replace Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees, as follows:

'Policy planning and reporting

23. An annual Special Meeting for the reporting and review of the States' policy planning and its implementation shall include:

  - a) commentary on progress and emerging issues;
  - b) identification of States' Resolutions which remain outstanding and updates from responsible Committees; and
  - c) a proposed order of priority for the drafting of significant items of legislation for the year ahead; and must be included by the States' Assembly & Constitution Committee when setting the Schedule for future States' Meetings.'; and
9. To direct the Policy & Resources Committee and the States' Assembly & Constitution Committee to bring revisions to Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees for consideration as part of the Government Work Plan – stage 2.

*The above Propositions have been submitted to Her Majesty's Procureur for advice on any legal or constitutional implications in accordance with Rule 4(1)*

- 10      **The States' Greffier:** Article I – Policy & Resources Committee – Government Work Plan – Stage 1.

**The Bailiff:** Well, Members of the States, a happy St Patrick's Day to you all – especially Deputy McKenna, of course.

- 15      The business for this Meeting is this single item. However, there has been submitted a motion to defer the entirety of the Special Meeting to follow the Ordinary Meeting that is being convened for 24th March.

20 So this is not a standard secondary Proposition to which Rule 24 is applicable, and therefore I am going to dispense with the opening speech that would normally follow, as I understand to be given by Deputy Soulsby when we reach this item of business, but I am minded to adopt the style that is found in Rule 24, paragraphs (5) or (12), and say that when we get to the motion to defer, debate must be limited strictly to that motion and not broader.

25 With that introduction, I invite Deputy Ferbrache, who is proposing the motion, to move the motion.

**Deputy Ferbrache:** Thank you very much indeed, sir.

Could I ask the Greffier to read it, if he would be so kind? The motion will be seconded by the Vice-President, Deputy Soulsby.

30 **The Bailiff:** Thank you, yes. Greffier.

*The States' Greffier read out the motion as follows:*

*To defer the Special Meeting on 17th March, 2021, for consideration of Proposition No P.2021/21: Government Work Plan – Stage 1, and to reconvene at the conclusion of the business contained in Billet d'État VIII which is scheduled to be debated at the States' Meeting to be held on 24th March, 2021.*

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

**Deputy Ferbrache:** Thank you very much, sir.

35 The Greffier's words say it all really, and your introductory remarks. Hopefully, overwhelmingly, Guernsey will be moving back to stage 3 – in other words, life as normal as it can be, with the borders still restricted – next Monday, 22nd March. Therefore many of the restrictions which will still pertain until midnight on 21st March will fall away and, sir, subject to any direction of course that you give as Presiding Officer, the States will be able to meet again together next week.

40 It was felt at the meeting of the Presidents about 12 days ago overwhelmingly, despite the wonderful advantages of technology that we have been able to use over the past seven or eight weeks, that this is a meeting of such importance that if at all possible it should be held with everybody in the same room.

Therefore on that basis I make the request for the motion for the debate on the Government Work Plan to be deferred for one week until 24th March.

45

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Soulsby, do you formally second the motion?

**Deputy Soulsby:** I do, sir, yes.

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

Is there any debate at all?

I do not see anyone indicating that they wish to debate the motion and therefore I will simply put the motion to you, to vote Pour or Contre in the Chat function as normal.

*Members voted Pour.*

55 **The Bailiff:** Well, Members of the States, I am satisfied that, although some votes are still coming through – people have perhaps been taken by surprise at the shortness of that! – I have not seen anyone who is indicating any opposition to approving the motion, and therefore I am satisfied that there is already a majority of Members who are voting in favour of it. Therefore I will declare the

motion to defer carried, which means that the Special Meeting will now take place as a second Meeting following the Ordinary Meeting convened already for 24th March.

**Procedural –  
Business scheduled for 24th March; physical attendance**

60       **The Bailiff:** Can I just say in respect of the business on 24th March that the intention is that we  
will meet physically in the Royal Court Chamber, but because the States of Election were scheduled  
to sit on 27th January, when I had to defer that sitting of the States of Election, I am proposing that  
the States of Election – unless there is any reason why that cannot take place – will be convened for  
9.30 on Wednesday 24th March, with the Meeting of the States of Deliberation Billet d'État VIII to  
65 follow when that sitting of the States of Election concludes, following which we will then return to  
the Special Meeting, so there are two Meetings of the States of Deliberation next week, but we  
might move seamlessly between the two, if that is going to be practicable on timing.

Now, in relation to attendance in the Royal Court Chamber on 24th March – the States of Election  
first, hopefully, and then the States of Deliberation – I am going to encourage Members of both the  
70 States to lead by example and recognise that even though, as Deputy Ferbrache has said, the hope  
is that there will be a move to stage 3 of the exit from lockdown by then, to respect one another's  
space. We know that it is a comparatively small room for a large number of people and when one  
is in proximity of others, particularly inside, it is going still to be desirable to consider people's  
sensibilities, considering wearing face coverings. Sanitising one's hands and staying away from the  
75 Meetings if unwell are all key messages, but I will be giving strong messages to everyone who  
attends the physical Meeting of the States next week to consider wearing face coverings. I certainly  
propose to do so, although it might be that we remove face coverings when speaking.

So with that bit of guidance for next week, fingers crossed that we will be in stage 3, everyone.  
Thank you for attending this brief remote Meeting of the States of Deliberation. I understand there  
80 is no further business today, the motion to defer having been carried, and therefore I will ask the  
Greffier to close the Meeting.

*The Assembly adjourned at 9.42 a.m.*