



**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**STATES OF DELIBERATION**

**OF THE**

**ISLAND OF GUERNSEY**

**HANSARD**

**Royal Court House, Guernsey, Wednesday, 28th April 2021**

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S. P. Haskins	H. J. R. Soulsby
M. A. J. Helyar	G. A. St Pier
N. R. Inder	A. W. Taylor
A. Kazantseva-Miller	L. S. Trott
	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. Ross, Esq. (H.M. States' Greffier)

**Absent at the Evocation**

R. M. Titterington, Q.C. (H.M. Comptroller);  
Deputy A. C. Dudley-Owen (*relevée à 9h 46*)

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# States of Deliberation

*The States met 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*]

## PRAYERS

*The States' Greffier*

## EVOCATION

## CONVOCATION

**The States' Greffier:** Billet d'État IX of 2021. To the Members of the States of the Island of Guernsey, I hereby give notice that a Meeting of the States of Deliberation will be held at the Royal Courthouse on Wednesday, 28th April 2021 at 9.30 a.m. to consider the items listed in this Billet d'État, which have been submitted for debate.

# Statements

## POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

### Policy & Resources Committee – General Update

**The Bailiff:** Good morning, Members of the States, and without more ado, I will invite the President of the Policy & Resources Committee to give a General Update Statement, Deputy Ferbrache.

**Deputy Ferbrache:** Thank you, sir, and for the opportunity of making this Statement. It follows on from those made by Deputies Soulsby and Helyar earlier this year and me last month. The theme and message is the same. That is to be proactive, pragmatic, and realistic. I will now cover some of the key areas of importance.

The first is that of public finances. I am grateful to colleagues for attending the session facilitated by Deputy Helyar and Treasury officers recently. He alerted Members and latterly the public, to the critical fiscal challenges – both immediate and in the longer term – facing our community. These challenges have been with us for some time, but the actuality and reality of them has not been expressed with the clarity and reality now required.

The pandemic has also had a significant impact on our revenues both last year and this year. We are also facing significant demographic changes. The increase in numbers of our population over the ages of 65 years is large and will go larger. The increased percentage rise in those who will live

beyond 85 years is even greater. Our already hard-pressed working population will also be declining numerically over the next 20 years. These factors, together with other outside pressures and challenges will also add to the strain on the public purse.

As will be seen on the five-year baseline forecast for public finances indicates a worsening picture for public finances with a deficit now and growing so that in a few years it is forecast to be in excess of £56 million per annum – that is when we take into account the need to remedy our lack of investment for some years and thus invest in our infrastructure. We have no option but to act and without delay. The deficit is without taking into account inflation, many new aspirations and significant pay increases.

The message is we simply cannot continue to increase spending in this term, and we will have to, rigorously and ruthlessly, prioritise the things we want to spend money on. There is no time or money for vanity projects. When we debate the Government Work Plan in July and consider funding and investment, we will need to carefully consider costs and benefits associated with our agreed priorities so that we can ensure we invest prudently and wisely within our scarce resources over this term.

We continue to take our role as an employer seriously and have recently introduced a process for political approval of senior officer recruitment. The need to monitor and control staff cost is both a political and operational imperative.

Deputy Helyar is leading a Tax Review this term which will be published in just a few months, this Review will, if it is to be meaningful, which it will be, be far reaching and purposeful. The Review will seek to address the longer-term challenges. And propose actions which we, as a Government, will need to lead. There are not likely to be any easy solutions. This, together with the actions we take to reduce the cost of public services and promote economic growth, will ensure – as we must – that we can balance public services in the longer term.

I now turn to the Government Work Plan. The Government Work Plan subcommittee established by Deputy Soulsby has already met twice and will continue to meet regularly to consider the impact, resourcing, cost and phasing of recovery actions for this term. As this work progresses it is increasingly obvious that the full areas of activity identified by Committees for this term are unachievable. We do not have the time, nor the resources, to do them all. That means that difficult decisions to pause, delay or even shelve work will have to be made.

One of the main limiting factors for action this term is people. This will play an important factor in the prioritisation of work. We will need to deploy skills and knowledge appropriately and effectively, and not in a ‘scattergun’ manner. The final proposals will need to be considered by the Assembly having regard to those realisms.

Balance will be needed between the immediate actions to support the economy and what will be needed to invest in the community and meet Assembly policy objectives. Together with the requirements to build resilience and establish foundations for longer term needs to address the cost of essential services as the Island’s demographic changes.

There will be a need for discussion with the community about the services we need, and that will include the size of Government and public services. States’ Members will be busy with workshops and briefings during May as the work ramps up and escalates to inform and develop the final recommendations.

It is of paramount importance though, that we ensure we invest in economic recovery, and just as important, where practical, that we enable investment in economic recovery from outside Government. We must remove red tape and barriers for business and must support the finance sector through enabling legislation where it is needed.

We must also provide more financial support to Guernsey Finance. We believe we are close to finalising our discussions with Guernsey Finance on the uplift they will receive. The Broadband Working Group we have established will also be able to give an update in the next few weeks on how it is intended we will boost our digital connectivity.

Transformation is the next matter I will address. The vice-president provided the Assembly with a detailed update as recently as 1st February. At that time, she referred to the establishment of a

75 States Portfolio Board as part of a single governance structure to ensure appropriate political oversight and a more coherent approach.

The Board has now met with Deputies Soulsby and Mahoney in attendance and will meet monthly going forward. The Vice-President also referred to MyGov which will provide a modern portal for digital interaction with the States. This is in the final stage of testing, with a view to 'go-live' next week.

80 The first service, personal tax returns, will be operating on this new platform including the back-end technology to ensure it is safe and secure. More services will be added over the coming months before a more formal launch of MyGov in September 2021. I think I just about understand the jargon I have read but I think the Members will understand it even better than me.

85 This begins a significant change to how services will be accessed by our community, particularly administration and transactional functions of government which we will see build and evolve over the coming months. The facilitation of this portal is a major enablement to the next stage of the reform and transformation of public services. A round of engagement is currently underway in order to brief all Presidents and their Committees. The recent issue, the problem we had, related to an outdated system, which is in need of replacement, and has only served to highlight the urgency of this reform.

90 Now to COVID. I am pleased to report that as of 22nd April it has been 55 days, and it is now a few more days since that, since we last had a case of community-acquired COVID. There was a single travel-associated case of infection identified on 12th April. But that is going to be picked up in normal course, as it was here. The person was in self-isolation and therefore did not pose a risk of infection to the community.

The vaccination programme has of course continued at pace. As at Monday, 39% of the population have received one dose and a further 25% have had both their doses. That means that 64% of the population over the age of 18 have received at least one dose of vaccine. We are amongst the world leaders in the efficacy and roll out of our vaccination programme.

100 Surveillance testing across the Bailiwick, aimed at the early detection of any infection in the community, has been and remains extensive and vitally important. We have developed programmes for key worker groups such as teachers, people working in hospitality and law enforcement to name just a few.

105 The East Arm testing facility has been used to support much of this work and I take the opportunity on behalf of all my colleagues to thank them and all the other staff at the Hospital, the pathology laboratory, and in Public Health, as well as many others who have been delivering this programme for their magnificent efforts.

Last Friday, 23rd April, we reduced the requirement to self-isolate from 14 to seven days if you travelled from a region in the UK or country which has a prevalence rate of less than 100 in 100,000 cases. Subject to things progressing well, on 14th May, there will be a further reduction for regions that have prevalence rates of less than 30 per 100,000 cases. That will only require the traveller to self-isolate until they receive a negative result following their day of arrival test.

115 So there is no misunderstanding, so the community can still have comfort, people travelling from regions and countries who have prevalence rates greater than 100 per 100,000 cases will still be required to observe the full 14 days self-isolation until July when further changes are anticipated where travel restrictions will be orientated around a combination of measures. This will include the vaccination coverage in the country where a traveller originates from, together with individual vaccination status.

120 We are so grateful to our community for its support and understand how difficult it has been but as I said recently at a press conference as our excellent vaccination programme progresses we will soon reach a point when we have to change our approach and learn to live with the virus without the need for lockdowns.

125 We must all continue to act responsibly and observe all the very sensible measures such as hand washing and hygiene precautions, which Public Health recommend we do as part of our normal life,

to help us be safe from COVID and other viruses, of course, such as flu. We also ask people to stay at home if they are unwell to protect our community.

Air and sea travel must be mentioned. Both are slowly returning to normal. We are very grateful indeed to Condor and Aurigny for all that they have done in such extreme circumstances. They have, and are, taking steps to ensure we are ready to move back to a more normalised transport connectivity as soon as possible.

The Committee will shortly conclude its thinking on an air policy. Discussions have been ongoing in respect of Aurigny's shareholder objectives and we welcome the development of their business plan, which will be aligned with the developing air policy. We also welcome the business plan from the Airport, and the development of an approach to maximise the benefits from the land and buildings at the Airport.

As to sea links, work is ongoing with Condor, their owners and the Jersey authorities on a long-term operating agreement. I ask Members to forgive me for not setting out our commercial position in a public forum just yet but be assured that this is an area of work that retains a high priority, and that the relationship with Condor and their owners is positive and based on ensuring we have long-term objectives to support our residential and visitor market.

Another topic I wish to mention is Royal Assent. The External Relations team is in discussion with officials at the Ministry of Justice about the delegation of Royal Sanction from the Privy Council to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor. My colleague, Deputy Le Tocq, led the discussion yesterday with a Minister at the Ministry of Justice in relation to that particular topic, amongst others.

The Committee is seeking an approach that builds on that taken by the Isle of Man and taking into account the proposal put forward by the Constitutional Investigation Committee agreed by the States in 2016. The Minister and Deputy Le Tocq are confident that we will be able to progress that matter in a reasonably expeditious period.

Once these discussions have concluded a policy letter and Propositions will be finalised for consideration by the States. It is envisaged that this will be during this year. The Committee discussed this with representatives of Alderney and Sark in the Bailiwick Council, with a view to making any new arrangement a Bailiwick-wide approach.

Finally and importantly, a much-neglected topic is the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Law. The P&R Committee has already indicated that amendments to Guernsey's insolvency legislation are to be treated as a priority. As reported in March, an industry-led working group is considering potential changes to Guernsey's personal insolvency regimes.

The working group is on course to submit a report, containing proposals on debt relief, to the Committee for Economic Development by the end of this week. The group will continue to look at individual voluntary arrangements and reform of the bankruptcy regime during the third of this year.

Thank you very much.

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

Deputy Dudley-Owen, do you wish to be relevéed?

**Deputy Dudley-Owen:** Yes please, sir.

**The Bailiff:** Thank you very much, we will mark you as present.

Now Members of the States, there is an opportunity to ask questions of the President on any matter within the mandate of the Policy & Resources Committee. That is not on the content of the Statement, some of which was not on the mandate of Policy & Resources Committee, but on the mandate of the Policy & Resources Committee.

Deputy Roffey.

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

The President mentioned the Island's changing demographics and that is bound to throw light on our population policy. Would the President agree with me that the lack of any meaningful population policy or target on net migration from this Assembly makes it impossible to plan for infrastructure, for housing and even to forecast accurately our financial situation in some years' time? And if he does agree, what are P&R going to do about it?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

**Deputy Ferbrache:** I do not think it makes it impossible but obviously it makes it more difficult because until you know what your aspirations are in relation to population growth or otherwise you cannot plan to the degree. But just because you cannot plan absolutely does not mean you cannot plan at all. There should be a population policy. That will be a matter for this Assembly and we look forward to, Policy & Resources will facilitate and encourage that the details of that policy are brought forward for a full debate by the States as soon as possible.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

**Deputy Trott:** Sir, I thank, through you, Deputy Ferbrache, for his general update. He stated we cannot continue to increase spending in this term. My question is does he mean in real or nominal terms, with regard to revenue spending and does that statement cover capital spending as well?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

**Deputy Ferbrache:** I am grateful to Deputy Trott for drawing out that point. The projections put forward by Deputy Helyar at the presentation to States' Members recently showed that we will have capital investment in the infrastructure over the next few years. That is why the deficit is projected to be £56.2 million, I think, in three or four years' time. So there will be investment.

What we are talking about, what the statement said – that Deputy Helyar put forward – is that the budget projections, they are predictions, we hope they could be better but they could be worse, do not take account of inflation, do not take account of any significant pay increases and do not take into account many of the projects that are not already on stream. But I am very grateful for the question.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** Further to Deputy Trott's question, whilst I accept the need for sensible expenditure restraint and prioritisation and caution, how far is the abolition of so-called vanity projects likely to lead to, in reality, a tendency towards austerity and a failure to grab economic regeneration, enabling opportunities?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

**Deputy Ferbrache:** I do not think it makes any difference at all. A vanity project is something that detracts from the aims of Government and the resources of Government. There are things that we will do, I envisage in this Assembly. We are going to do important things in relation to the environment. We have got to over the next four years. We are going to do important things in relation to Health and Education. We have to over the next four years.

Vanity projects for people, I do not know, let us say something, let us just make up an example. Something like assisted dying, which took away resources that we did not have, took away from a policy that had been developed by the then Policy & Resources Committee and was seeking to take away resources that we did not have. That kind of thing I regard as a vanity project.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Queripel.

**Deputy Queripel:** Sir, thank you. Regarding the vaccination programme, in his Statement Deputy Ferbrache said 64% of the population have had their first vaccination. Can he tell me please if he has any concerns about alienation and discrimination setting in, whereby an us and them situation arises due to some members of our community deciding they do not want to be vaccinated?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache, are you minded to answer that question? It is really a –

**Deputy Ferbrache:** No sir, but I did cover it in my Statement.

**The Bailiff:** I know but it is not questions on the Statement.

**Deputy Ferbrache:** I appreciate that but I am quite happy to answer Deputy Queripel's question because he raises a question that is important. The truth of it, the actuality of it is two things. Firstly, nobody is compelled to have a vaccination if they do not want to. Secondly, and this is my view and not the Civil Contingencies Authority or even necessarily my colleagues in Policy & Resources, they will have their own views, people are most unwise if they do not have a vaccination because that is our greatest protection against the virus, going forward. But that is people's choice because we live in a democracy.

Nobody is seeking to alienate those who do not want it. There may be, and again I emphasise the permissive word, there may be repercussions in relation to that. I do not mean legal repercussions; I mean, for example, if there are vaccination passports or the equivalent and let us say the UK insists upon those before you can travel to the UK and you do not have one, you will be disadvantaged.

But if you are an adult over the age of 18 and you have had the opportunity to have a vaccine and chose not to do so, it is like everything, for every right you have you have a duty and if you are to exercise your rights the duty may be or the consequences may be that you cannot travel.

**The Bailiff:** Alderney Representative Snowdon.

**Alderney Representative Snowdon:** Thank you, sir. Recently there have been talks between the States of Guernsey and the States of Alderney over future relationships between our Island and the Bailiwick. Could the President explain if these talks are positive and hopefully going in the right direction? Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

**Deputy Ferbrache:** Sir, again, it is not for me to say. My able colleague who leads on both Alderney and Sark, Deputy Helyar, is I think doing a purposeful, very effective job of building relations with those communities and he will continue to do so. Certainly, the wider aspiration, I believe, of the Policy & Resources Committee and I think indeed the States of Guernsey, is to realise the needs of our brother and sister Islands, I use both because I do not want to offend anybody, brother and sister Islands, in relation to how we develop over the next few years. There are challenges both in Alderney and there are challenges both in Sark. We will do our best to help them.

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

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

280 The Chief Minister in his update used the words 'we cannot spend more money, we need radical rationalisation of priorities and we need to talk about the size of Government public services.' Would the Chief Minister agree that this sends a message of austerity to our community and businesses?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

285 **Deputy Ferbrache:** No, it does not. The word I would choose is realism. It sends a measure of realism. You cannot in your private life, if you want to lead it prudently, spend more money than you have got coming in over a long period of time. Some times in your private life, if you do not have private means, you have got to borrow to buy your house. You have got to borrow to invest in business. You have to do that. But what you project over a period of time is a measure that you  
290 can repay those debts and generally most people achieve that.

There will have to be realism, which means not everybody can get everything they want. But there will still be, comparing where we are with most other places, much that can be done.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier.

295 **Deputy St Pier:** Sir, I have given Deputy Ferbrache prior notice of this question. Can he advise the number of appointments made by budgets held by his Committee at SO1 level or above since October? Of course, if he does not have this information to hand, could he please provide it within writing within five days in accordance with the Rules?

300 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache, are you able to answer that question off the top of your head?

**Deputy Ferbrache:** No, sir. I would like to, I should be able to but I cannot. But I will provide it within ... in five working days, I do not know, because Deputy St Pier knows more about these Rules  
305 and Regulations than I do, and of course I would hope though that we would not be in a position whereby we were between the end of 2015 and the end of 2019, when I was not the Treasury Minister and I was not President of Policy & Resources, to have an increase from 226 people to 325 people in the Public Service that were earning £80,000 a year or more. But I will do my best to answer the questions as soon as I can.

310 **The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** Thank you, sir. Deputy Ferbrache said in his statement we will need to deploy skills appropriately and not in a scattergun manner and I could not agree with him more. As  
315 Committees are best placed to understand, advise and indeed decide on how skills are best deployed within the remit of issues within their mandate, can the President please assure us that P&R will closely consult with Committees in their review of senior appointments?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

320 **Deputy Ferbrache:** Yes of course, sir, and I think Deputy de Sausmarez will confirm we have our regular President meetings, which I find very productive, but of course there will be consultation. But ultimately there may be some disagreement between an individual Committee and P&R. We hope there will not be too much but there is bound to be some over the next four years and  
325 ultimately, if that cannot be resolved by agreement between those various Committees, the States will decide.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

330 **Deputy Gollop:** Thank you, sir. The President mentioned sea links and air links and his role *ex officio*, as President of the CCA. Given that Jersey have only two cases and we fortunately, as he pointed out, have zero cases, is it not now time to negotiate with Jersey about a bubble arrangement, notwithstanding the fact they have different views on traffic light entry and border policy, which are admittedly significant hurdles to overcome?

335 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache, it is outside P&R's mandate. It does relate to a set of questions that are going to be asked to you as Chairman of the Civil Contingencies Authority, so I am going to rule that question out of order. Deputy Trott.

340 **Deputy Trott:** Thank you, sir. The answer given by Deputy Ferbrache to Alderney Representative Snowden draws this question from me. The subsidy by the Guernsey resident taxpayer to the residents of Alderney is a staggering £3,000 per annum per person. Now, with regard the statement of we cannot continue to increase spending in this term, are we all in this together?

345 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

350 **Deputy Ferbrache:** Yes we are. Because if you carry the inference, I appreciate not the words, the inference behind Deputy Trott's question, you would be saying to somebody, you are 85 now, you are a real burden on the State, we are not going to spend any more money on your healthcare. Or you are 25 years of age but you have got a serious illness, we are not going to spend any more money on you. Or your children need special needs, we are not going to do that because it costs more than children in standard education, if I can call it that situation. We do not live like that in this Bailiwick. We want to spend every penny wisely but we do not want to be parsimonious with those that need it.

355 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Gabriel. Sorry, Deputy Cameron. It is because you sit next to each other! Deputy Cameron, I do apologise.

360 **Deputy Cameron:** The MyGov application is being built using robotics to control legacy applications that are well past their sell-by date. Can the President confirm that funds are being set aside to replace these legacy applications? Can you also confirm that the data collected will also be stored securely and locally?

365 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

370 **Deputy Ferbrache:** I have had whispered to me by the Vice-President, yes. So the answer is yes! But in relation to the more technical questions, frankly I am not the best, and I do not mean it to be, because it is a very good question by Deputy Cameron. I will look into that and I will make sure that somebody comes back to him with an accurate answer. That hopefully suffices in answer to his question.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy de Lisle.

375 **Deputy de Lisle:** Sir, the President mentioned expenditure restraint but he did not say that there would be a reduction in public spending. Now the public already is strapped, sir, with tax and other costs, with relatively little disposable income to offer in the high street. Can I make an appeal for a lightening of the tax bill on the public as we go forward this term, given the effect of COVID on the community? Thank you, sir.

380 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

**Deputy Ferbrache:** Deputy de Lisle raises a very good point, if I may respectfully say so. The fiscal review, the financial review is being led by Deputy Helyar. He will hear that just as I hear it and my other colleagues on P&R will hear it, the Assembly generally. That will be something that will be taken into account.

It is not the intent, without tying our hands in that review, which has still got a few months to run before it comes back before this Assembly, to increase the burden on anybody more than is necessary. I appreciate that is a bit of a political answer but Deputy de Lisle is an experienced political campaigner and will know what I mean. Certainly, his comments are well-made and will be listened to.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Burford.

**Deputy Burford:** Thank you, sir. At the Scrutiny Management Committee public hearing last Friday, possibly before the President joined the Public Gallery, the Vice-President said on the topic of the management of States' land and property and the Resolutions of the 2018 policy letter on rationalisation, it is a priority, things need to change. When asked if there would be a report, the Vice-President responded, not a report an action. I would like to ask the President what action will be taken, when and by whom?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

**Deputy Ferbrache:** The initial action will be taken, such matters are led by ... because what we did when we first sat down as a new Policy & Resources Committee, we divided up the various functions between us. Those functions fall within the main responsibility of my colleague, Deputy Mahoney. The intent is that they will come back, matters will be discussed publicly with this Assembly and our proposals will be put before the Assembly so that the Assembly can consider them.

But in relation to individual decisions that are within the mandate of P&R, they will be made by P&R in accordance with its provision. The odd property might be sold, might be realised, that money will go into the pot. That will be a decision that P&R will make in accordance with its mandate.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier.

**Deputy St Pier:** In 2007, a time when neither Deputy Ferbrache nor I were in the States, he may or may not be aware that Scrutiny and the Treasury & Resources Department at the time concluded that the staff limitation policy did not work other than simply encouraging creative ways around that policy and was less effective than capped budgets. Following last week's media release in relation to limitations on staff appointments, why will such a policy be more effective this time around?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

**Deputy Ferbrache:** He is right. I only remember that in passing. Deputy St Pier is still right to raise that and that has been a consideration. I think because we are in a different position. This has been building and building over the years. Going back to my first time in the States, from 1994-2000, the money was gushing in. The States was manifestly inefficient but still managed to increase its reserves.

That continued beyond my term to about 2008-09 when, very well led if I may say so and I supported it fully at the time, by Deputy Trott, the considerations came through that we had to change with Zero-10. I may have argued with him that we could have perhaps left it another year or so but we are not going to get into that somewhat esoteric argument now.

435 The point in relation to that is we are now in a position where our tax structures cannot support the edifice that has been built over the last 10 years. So the States will have to decide whether it wants a Civil Service of the same number or it is going to face the fact that it has got less people, we are going to have the automation that I referred to earlier in my Statement and that we may actually say to the public you cannot have all that you want. That has not happened, and no need for criticism of anybody, over the last 12 years or so. That has not happened as much as it should.

440 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

**Deputy Trott:** Sir, I have one more question for Deputy Ferbrache. He said that he believed that previous Assemblies had not communicated with sufficient clarity the extent of the challenges of public finances and I respect his opinion on that. The question is how important does he believe 445 that honesty and clarity is in the delivery of public messages?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

**Deputy Ferbrache:** I do believe that and I think everybody in this Assembly believes that. There 450 has been much talk recently about whether this should have been said or that should have been said. What I do not like, and I am a very resilient person, I have got very broad shoulders, and I do not mean any criticism of Deputy Trott because he is a man who will stab you in the front rather than in the back – I mean that nicely and I am exactly the same kind of person. But I do not like people that try and stab me in the back or undermine me. I do not like people that do that.

455 There have been some that have been trying to do that and I think that is a shame. We have got to work together and move forward. People will make mistakes. Just because you say something that was wrong does not mean you are being dishonest. It means you have made a mistake sometimes and I think credence ought to be given for that.

460 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** Hopefully, you, sir, will not rule this question out of order again because it arguably goes slightly beyond the terms of the Statement but is relevant to the topics. That is the President of Policy & Resources and the new Committee clearly believe in the art of delegation and 465 specific Members taking on lead Member roles, as per Economic Development. Why have you adopted this strategy, compared to your predecessor, and would you recommend it for other Principal Committees in the Chamber?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

470 **Deputy Ferbrache:** Sir, I am almost timorous in telling other people how to deal with things. In relation to, I was Guernsey's first ever full-time litigator. I built up a litigation practice which was beyond *peradventure*, I hasten to say, in my Guernsey firm now a Jersey firm. I did that in relation to that and I did it by delegation because you cannot do everything. I am very fortunate with my 475 four colleagues on P&R. I have total confidence in all of them and I think they are round pegs in round holes doing the jobs that they are doing, both individually and collectively. So I do recommend it to others but that is a matter for them.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Burford.

480 **Deputy Burford:** Thank you, sir. I would like to just follow on from my previous question because there seems to be a slight discrepancy in that the Vice-President has suggested there would not be a report on property but I took from the President's answer that there would be. Could you clarify which it will be? Thank you.

485 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

**Deputy Ferbrache:** I do not think there is any inconsistency at all in relation to what the Vice-President said last week and what I am saying now. The day-to-day decisions and significant decisions will be taken by the Policy & Resources Committee. In due course, like anything, any  
490 significant matters such as property, which is what Deputy Burford is asking about, we will bring something back before the States to say, 'This is what we have done. This is what we are intending to do. Can we have your support?' I am not saying that is tomorrow, next week or even next month but I would see that, probably during the course, by the end of this year.

495 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Dyke.

**Deputy Dyke:** Thank you, sir. The biggest wildcard in the liabilities of the States of Guernsey relate to the public sector pension deficits. Slight changes in assumptions in terms of economic returns can add to these liabilities by hundreds of millions of pounds, possibly billions of pounds.  
500 Could I ask what plans the President of Policy & Resources has to get some control over these potential liabilities and what plans are there to change arrangements, for example, for new civil servants as they are taken on board? Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

505 **Deputy Ferbrache:** Sir, dealing with the second part of Deputy Dyke's questions first, I remember when I was in the States all those years ago, I felt then, and I had finished being a States' Member on 30th April 2000, the changes should have been made then because it was already underlined that the pension-type schemes that the private sector were having as well were not  
510 sustainable. We should have done it then. I believe it is happening now and it will continue to happen going forward. But the pension arrangements, etc. and the terms and conditions will be changed.

Deputy Mahoney, I know, is working on that. As to the first part of the question about the Public Service deficit for pensions, there is still about £1.5 million, which is not an inconsiderable sum, I  
515 think, in that pension scheme, if I am correct, and if I am not somebody can correct it. It is a matter of public record. That issue does have to be addressed. My colleague, Deputy Helyar, is already looking at that.

**The Bailiff:** Members of the States, I am going to exercise my discretion, because we are all  
520 having so much fun, to extend questions to the President of the Policy & Resources Committee but whenever there is a Member who has not asked a question who stands, I will always call them in priority to somebody who has already asked a question and some who have asked multiple questions. So, next question please. Deputy Gabriel.

525 **Deputy Gabriel:** Thank you, sir. Would the President agree with me that the cost of projects and items to the Island is certainly different to the value of projects and some occasions can we afford not to prioritise certain capital projects and the revenue that is required for that? Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

530 **Deputy Ferbrache:** Again, similarly to Deputy Dyke, answering him backwards as it were the first part, yes I agree. I agree with Deputy Gabriel in relation to that. There are certain projects that we need to prioritise and no doubt Policy & Resources will come with a recommendation to the Assembly and the Assembly will decide that.

535 In relation to his first point the answer is not always. Sometimes, clearly, we have only got to look at the history of it and projects have run over price, over value, over time and the States has

not got the same value for it as it would. But a lot of projects, and I mention the waste management project, for example, which was delivered on time and on budget, it is still a considerable sum. So some things have been achieved well. I would say to Deputy Gabriel, others not so well.

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

545       **Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Thank you, sir. The public sector reform is looking to achieve the rationalisation of our resources through a matrix organisation but also through centralisation of some services. It has happened, for example, at senior officer level, where they work across different departments, it is going to happen across front services, core services, etc. But that poses a contrast to our political committee system and perhaps says that our political structure is not aligned to what is going to be happening on public sector reform. Is that going to be addressed this term? Is it a priority?

550       **The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

555       **Deputy Ferbrache:** That is a very good question. If it had been up to me – and it is not – I would have had executive government years ago. Now I think we need to move towards that. We will be looking at that. I do not want to start *Press* headlines because I see the editor of the *Press* is in, I think, and no doubt he will write something. I do not want to see a headline tomorrow – but he will put whatever he likes anyway – ‘The President of P&R says there will be executive government’. I am not saying that, I am saying I personally would like it but I think it is something the Deputy raises that we should be looking at because she is right, we are out of line. We are trying to tow an ocean liner with a little tug boat and that is not going to work going forward.

560       **The Bailiff:** Deputy Queripel.

565       **Deputy Queripel:** Sir, thank you. Deputy Ferbrache said a moment ago the public have to accept they cannot always have what they want. Would he not agree with me that there is a fundamental difference between what the public want and what the public need, bearing in mind that they will always need food on the table, clothes on their backs, money in their pockets, houses in which to live, along with an efficient Health Service, their children being educated and all sorts of other things in which to have the sort of quality of life we always talk about in the States? Does he mean the public will have to accept they will not be able to have the quality of life that they need?

570       **The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

575       **Deputy Ferbrache:** No, sir, I am not saying that. It is a good point well-raised by Deputy Queripel. It always annoys me and I have heard it so many times in the past, the States of Guernsey should be like a PLC. No, it should be run business-like but for social purposes so that people can have their children well-educated, they can have decent houses, they can have pensions and all the other things that Deputy Queripel and I and many others in this Assembly share the view on. So that will be the last thing.

580       What we are seeking to do at P&R, and I am sure this Assembly, over the next four years is to ensure that we continue with the kinds of things that Deputy Queripel has said. But there will be other things that we may not be able to do, that in a perfect world we would have liked to have done.

585       **The Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

590       **Deputy Trott:** I said that it was my final question for which I apologise, but it just struck me that we have had the pleasure of listening to all Members of the Policy & Resources Committee in giving

statements, other than Deputy Mahoney who clearly has a significant workload, will we have the pleasure of hearing from him in the near future?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

**Deputy Ferbrache:** I can see him smiling – I am not sure with joy or with grimace – but I am sure that shortly we will have a statement because the idea is that the five of us, on the areas of responsibility that we have, stand up and speak to the States, make a statement and then people like Deputy Trott – I think he has asked four questions now, I am not sure – very good – will have the opportunity of asking four questions. And Deputy Gollop may even ask four or five questions, but we will find out.

**The Bailiff:** Members of the States, we will finish questions to the President of the Policy & Resources Committee now.

## COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Committee for Economic Development – General Update

**The Bailiff:** I will invite the President of the Committee for Economic Development, Deputy Inder, to give the General Update Statement on behalf of that Committee. Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** Thank you, sir. Members, you will recall that in my last President's update I made a number of commitments and I will give an update on the Committee's progress over the last six months and on our future plans.

The Committee is really focussing economic recovery and growth in the short- to medium-term in order to create the revenue to enable investment in other areas of policy and services. And, we must maintain, and part of that maintenance of our accessibility through strengthening our transport and digital connectivity and understanding our approach as risk-based economy.

I am going to diverge off my set speech and I would say that diversifying is of course an admirable ambition but too often a business or a Government can forget its core industries in its search for that big new idea. On that, sir, we must be outward looking and ready to adapt to the challenges and opportunities presented in the post-Brexit economic settlement; and, for that reason, I am pleased that the newly established Trade Policy Forum will be meeting on 18th May to provide a forum for business and Government.

On the matter of skills, all of this means we need to increase our economically active population, upskilling our Islanders so that they can benefit from the economy of the future. Last week's joint meeting with the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture to discuss skills was a restart of that ambition, with a policy letter coming to the States in 2022. I will say, sir, Deputy Kazantseva-Miller and Deputy Sam Haskins have admirably led that piece of work between the two Committees and I am grateful for that.

We are also supporting our finance sector. Next month the final paper will come to the Committee that will agree the future funding for Guernsey Finance as Government signals its support for this most important of sectors. Enabling legislation is the Committee's bread and butter. The States has agreed to introduce legislation to enable the use of Limited Liability Companies and we will continue to support finance sector innovation to ensure that the sector remains at the cutting edge.

On the matter of digital connectivity, this is a legacy that the whole of this Assembly will leave future generations. Fibre to every home in Guernsey is the goal. The broadband working group will shortly conclude its work to identify the best way forward on that infrastructure.

635 The Committee remains committed to working with other Committees to boost air and sea connectivity when we exit from lockdown. We welcome the new *détente*, at least, between Aurigny and Blue Islands.

On the matter of sea links, whilst reliable and robust freight sea links have been maintained during the pandemic, the focus is now on how to grow sustainable sea links for passengers and cars – going north, south and inter-Island. Working alongside the Policy & Resources Committee, the  
640 Committee will continue to work towards securing a long-term agreement to secure a robust, reliable and affordable ferry service that has the capacity at the right times of the year to meet demand from users.

I cannot make a statement without mentioning the runway. In respect of aviation, the Committee is reviewing the business case for extending Guernsey Airport's runway and we will come back to the States with that work before the end of this year.  
645

I have committed to a review of the Aircraft Registry and I can confirm that this work is now underway, following changes made to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Aircraft Registry. This is an area that can significantly boost many areas of our economy, and the STSB commitment to looking at airport infrastructure, as alluded to in Deputy Ferbrache's update, and  
650 land use is part of this same overall strategy.

In my last update, I committed to transforming how we market ourselves as a visitor destination; to setting out a plan for investment in our tourism product and an accommodation strategy that ensures that we have appropriate bed stock and enable closed hotels to change their use to benefit the wider economy.

655 We are already working closely with the tourism industry to develop a new campaign and a new approach to marketing ourselves as a tourist destination to broaden the Island's appeal to younger visitors. We are developing a new tourism strategy, and it really is a blank canvas in which the whole of the industry is engaged.

Sports tourism, large events, general aviation are all on the table; Guernsey will come out of the pandemic in better shape. In addition, we are working to fast-track a change of use for sites that  
660 are designated as hotels but never will be hotels again. Quite frankly, the visitor economy is evolving, and if we can use these sites to support other types of development we should do so.

We also need to develop a coherent and co-ordinated approach to the long-term sustainable management of our marine and terrestrial environments allowing economic potential to be maximised, and the Committee's aim is that work on the blue economy is prioritised within the  
665 Government Work Plan, and also will be referenced in the Tourism Strategy itself.

The Committee will also support entrepreneurship to enable new businesses to grow and thrive. The Digital Greenhouse and its partners already provide advice and support to entrepreneurs as well as access to mentors and advice on accessing finance. And we are building on this.

670 Small businesses are drivers of economic growth and the Committee will work to enable opportunities for regeneration, not least in St Peter Port and at Leale's Yard. Our opportunity to change the way we use Town is one we must grasp. Making the centre of Town a place to live will regenerate retail and hospitality sectors and support our Tourism Strategy.

We are working hard to make it easier for local businesses to apply for and win contracts from the £200 million that the States of Guernsey awards annually. The States already spends about 57% with local businesses. Guernsey money spent in Guernsey is good for Guernsey. There is no  
675 argument on that.

Locate Guernsey is attracting new business and talent to the Bailiwick and the Committee is already working with Locate, as well as the Committee for Home Affairs, on further optimising the  
680 Open Market as an economic enabler. We also welcome the Population Management Review which is being set up by the Committee for Home Affairs and look forward in inputting into that important piece of work.

We have received the feasibility study for an international university. There is further work to be done to consider smaller-scale options and I will update Members in due course.

685 The Committee wants to promote and support the emerging medicinal cannabis sector but this needs Committees to work together. This is a sector in its infancy, and we must ensure that the regulatory and licensing framework protects our reputation but also enables innovation.

This needs and is starting to form a cross-Committee support, and the President of the Committee *for* Health & Social Care, Deputy Brouard, Deputy Helyar and I are meeting to discuss  
690 how we do that. In short, the opportunities in front of us are ours to lose.

To conclude, Members, the Committee is working hard to achieve outcomes which will drive sustainable economic growth and will enable Bailiwick businesses to not only recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, but also to grow and thrive. This will enable local residents, businesses and visitors to make the most of all that the Bailiwick has to offer. We will remain positive in the light of  
695 all the negative press that we sometimes receive. Guernsey is a great place to live, it is a great place to work and we will continue sending that message. Thank you, sir.

**The Bailiff:** Now, Members of the States, there is an opportunity to ask questions on any matter within the mandate of that Committee. Deputy Dudley-Owen.

700

**Deputy Dudley-Owen:** Thank you, sir, and thank you to the President of the Committee *for* Economic Development for his update. It was very interesting. In terms of building skills resilience for the future does the Committee have any long-term strategic view of which sectors could be the winners of the future for Guernsey?

705

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** I suppose we do inasmuch as if skills, if we are heading into the sort of morass of a retiring population and a reduced workforce, I think the question that might want to be asked  
710 is how are we going to backfill that hole which is being left by the demise of the size of the working population? So, to answer Deputy Dudley-Owen's question specifically, I think digital skills is incredibly important, because that is the way the economy is certainly going, or rather the world is going. But I would be very mindful of deciding what we are going to backfill the population with.

715

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Roffey.

**Deputy Roffey:** Thank you, sir. The President said that he was keen for Guernsey to take full advantage of the business opportunities provided by the burgeoning world cannabis market. Would he agree with me that, for Guernsey to do that on a corporate basis at the same time as maintaining  
720 some of the strictest rules anywhere in Europe on the personal use of cannabis, it is a little bit as hypocritical as maybe Saudi Arabia hosting an international distiller while maintaining its own domestic regime?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

725

**Deputy Inder:** No, absolutely not and that is incredibly unhelpful. It is incredibly unhelpful. Continuing connecting the recreational use of cannabis with the very serious business of medicinal cannabis, which is coming out, just really does not help. I am getting a little bit bored of standing in sometimes in the middle of a Deputy Roffey opinion column. He must really disconnect the two  
730 issues of legalising cannabis and the power and the value to the economy of medicinal cannabis.

**The Bailiff:** Alderney Representative Roberts.

735 **Alderney Representative Roberts:** Thank you, sir. We have got four or five companies producing CBD in Alderney at this moment. There is a bit of an *impasse*. It is a growing industry that could bring much to the Bailiwick economy. Could he let me know what is being done to get over this *impasse* with us losing 20% in Corporation Tax, being lost from this? It is multi millions of pounds being lost.

740 **Deputy Inder:** I absolutely agree with that –

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder, two things. Do not stand up please until you are called and do not stand up when another Member is speaking please. So, Deputy Inder to reply.

745 **Deputy Inder:** Sir, thankfully we have got a Member who is actually ensconced in the business and actually has knowledge. In fact we have got two up in Alderney and one in the Chamber. Unlike the opinion-forming question that we had previously. What I will say to Members, there has been a failure in the organisation itself. There are no two ways about it. The organisation, not the politicians, have not done what they have needed to do in regard to working with an MOU. That has not happened.

750 But here is some good news. Deputy Helyar and myself have parked some tanks on people's lawns over the past couple of weeks. Emails have been sent and things are moving on. The MOU has been drafted. It has been sent to the Law Officers – excuse me, I have not got my timelines exactly right. It has been sent to the Law Officers, as I understand it, the MOU is heading to the UK  
755 Home Office by the middle of May and with a fair wind we may well have an established MOU by the end of this month.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Parkinson.

760 **Deputy Parkinson:** Thank you, sir. Deputy Inder mentioned that his Committee are reviewing the options for an international university presence on Guernsey. Can he advise the Assembly whether his Committee intends to publish the Oxentia Report on the International University Project for which the taxpayer has already paid £250,000 so that the public and the Assembly can be aware of the situation before his Committee brings forward their proposals?

765 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** Sorry, sir. I got up too early, as usual. No. The short answer is indeed it is correct that as a Committee document, it is indeed paid for by public money. But it is up to the Committee  
770 to make that decision and we are certainly not going to have a lot of preamble about the Oxentia Report without any of the context before the Committee makes a final decision. So the short answer is no.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

775 **Deputy Trott:** Thank you, sir. Deputy Inder advised of the desire to get even more of our citizens economically active. That continues to be a laudable objective. Clarity is important as we have heard. So, does the President of Economic Development know that, as a percentage of those economically active in our Island, our public sector is one of the smallest in the developed world. Does this  
780 therefore translate into inevitable material population growth?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

785 **Deputy Inder:** I am not entirely sure what the question was there. I am happy to sit down because sometimes some of these politicised questions become so obtuse. I am going to sit down and see if Deputy Trott, through you, could actually ask me a question that I might understand.

**The Bailiff:** Do you wish to re-pose the question, Deputy Trott?

790 **Deputy Trott:** Yes. I am somewhat surprised that the President does not understand, so I shall speak slowly. Clarity is important, as we have heard. Does the President of Economic Development know that, as a percentage of those economically active in our Island, our public sector is one of the smallest in the developed world?

795 The context is, sir, that Deputy Inder advised of the desire to get even more of our citizens economically active and I expressed my view that that was a laudable ... continues to be a laudable objective. The question is does this therefore translate into inevitable and material population growth? I am just trying to see how his Statement circles the square.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

800 **Deputy Inder:** Sir, I think there were two questions there. Deputy Trott has long maintained that we have got one of the smallest Civil Services in terms of the size of the population but equally I do not think we have got a navy, an army, among other things, that larger countries do, either. So I think that might need picking apart at some point. To answer his, I think it was his last question, it might be yes and it might be no.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.

810 **Deputy de Sausmarez:** Thank you, sir. My question does follow in a similar theme to Deputy Trott's actually. Deputy Inder said there was a need, or he underscored the need, to increase our economically active population and I am interested in understanding whether, in his view, that will lead to a material increase in population growth, bearing in mind that an indefinite policy of that nature is clearly inherently unsustainable. So I would like to ask about the timeframe of that particular policy that he described in his Statement and also ask about other ways of looking at this, for example, in terms of productivity and whether that is something that his Committee has considered?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

820 **Deputy Inder:** Thank you, sir. The answer to that is quite clearly I do not control, this Committee does not control the population and Deputy Ferbrache has referred to the fact that we are going to have a population discussion at some point. So in short, I think it is fairly clear that as the population retires and the working population diminishes in some way we are going to have to find some way of filling the gap.

825 If taxation becomes problematic, we have got to get economic activity. If a consequence of economic activity finds that we have got a hole in our population, we might need a more youth-based or an ideas driven population, I really do think that is something that we have got to give due consideration to.

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

**Deputy St Pier:** Sir, on 4th November, as a supplementary question, I asked Deputy Inder whether he would give an undertaking within three months of a cost-benefit analysis of the Aircraft Registry could be brought for the benefit of Members. Deputy Inder responded:

I do not think under my Presidency and given the Committee Members that I have got that there are any stones going to be left unturned, so I will not commit to three months but I will certainly commit, I will say within six months I will give Deputy St Pier that. Six months.

Could Deputy Inder advise what progress has been made and when we might expect to see that cost-benefit analysis?

840       **The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** Sorry, sir, I got up too quick again. I am glad Deputy St Pier read the piece from *Hansard* because I got it myself just in case. He is correct. That is exactly what I said. The review has been, basically, fairly bitty, but it is certainly focussed. There have been advances in operational  
845 efficiencies at the Registry itself and there is far more collaborative working with the partnering firm, SGI.

          We have had conversations with officers themselves and as another said, to officers, Deputy St Pier and, through you sir, the problem when you speak sometimes to the organisational needs they will tell you what you want to hear but the customers will tell you what you need to know. We have  
850 done both. We have spoken to the officers and we have spoken to the clients as well.

          There are substantial opportunities to be had with the Aircraft Registry and it wraps up, to a degree, with the Airport Master Plan. So the short answer is we are not leaving any stone unturned. It is happening. It was not a false promise. What I will not be able to do is deliver that within the six months, which I have already missed, so I am going to try, if he would give me some slack and give  
855 me another two or three months, and we will report back to the States and Members.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Roffey.

**Deputy Roffey:** Thank you, sir. The President, rightly, made much of the need to maximise our  
860 workforce to address the problems we have got going forward. Would he agree with me that one crucial way to do that is for the whole community, the States and employers, to make sure that their attitude is allowing people with disabilities to make the maximum possible economic contribution that they can, even if that sometimes means some adaptation, both physical or in process?

865       **The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** I think that principle was agreed last term and I am assuming that when Deputy Roffey's Committee comes back it is likely to be re-established but I think ultimately the difficulty I had with the previous policy letter, having asked a number of people who have got their own  
870 challenges, it was never entirely clear what the policy letter and the expense would have done to allow people to act more in a participation way into that economy. So the short answer to his question is effectively, yes, but I am still somewhat concerned about the cost wrapped around it. Because I actually think Guernsey business is a lot better than the policy letter thinks it is.

875       **The Bailiff:** Alderney Representative Snowdon.

**Alderney Representative Snowdon:** Thank you, sir. Would the President agree, sort of in response to Mr Trott's comments a bit earlier on, that economic development between Alderney and Guernsey is absolutely vital and it is really important that the two Committees work together  
880 and will he welcome this and hopefully there will be an Alderney visit in the near future? Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** I just remind you, Alderney Representative Snowdon, it should be *Deputy* Trott. Deputy Inder.

885 **Deputy Inder:** Sir, thank you. Again, Alderney Representative Snowden, I do owe Alderney an apology. There has been every intention to get up there. I have got to the point where I think I am just basically going to come up there with a couple of our Members and sort it out ourselves but for some reason, it is almost like bad homework – not necessarily for us, possibly for the officers – to try and find a time to give Alderney maybe a one or two-day visit. It has been very difficult over  
890 the last couple of months but I will make every effort, through you sir, as you have seen via an email, I have started to get a bit bored of the conversation. We just have to get on and do it.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Burford.

895 **Deputy Burford:** Thank you, sir. In his last update to the Assembly, the President committed to prioritising an assessment of air connectivity objectives, including deciding whether *quasi*-open skies help or hinder those objectives. Has any conclusion been reached on that point?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

900 **Deputy Inder:** Through you, sir, thank you for the question. Sort of yes and no. We had a letter from Policy & Resources, which was wrapped around the new management team at Aurigny, asking, similar to the previous Policy & Resources letter with a different date, whether open skies should be *quasi*-open skies, really, whether *quasi*-open skies should be set aside for a three-year term. The  
905 Committee disagreed with that and wrote, correspondingly, back to Policy & Resources, asking them, it was not the Committee's view that *quasi*-open skies should be suspended.

The problem with it, of course, is that we are in the middle of a pandemic and it is very difficult to analyse something which is not actually happening at the moment. So the short answer to the question, we were not expecting to go through lockdown 0.2 six months ago, and we have done.  
910 So, really, there has not been an awful lot of work on giving that any further consideration at the moment.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Dyke.

915 **Deputy Dyke:** Thank you, sir. Deputy Inder has referred to the Open Market as an economic enabler. Would he agree that the restrictions that were imposed on the Open Market in 2017 have effectively shot ourselves in the foot and should be reversed as soon as possible to allow maximum use and benefit from the Open Market?

920 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** I do not think we can look at that in isolation because the Open Market is important, is, has been and will continue to be, is not the only part that has been affected by population management. To drive something to satisfy or force something to be reversed  
925 completely for one portion of the sector, I do not think would be particularly clever.

But there is a population management review and it is being led by the Home Department, of which one of Home Department's Members is on our Committee and there has been a substantial amount of work with the Open Market Forum, I think it is called, which Deputy Moakes, Deputy Vermeulen have had a role in. So, again, I have rambled a bit but the short answer is I do not like  
930 making decisions just on a few people because it ultimately impacts everyone else.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** Thank you, sir. Deputy Inder, in his Statement towards the end made reference  
935 to improving the lot of people in the hospitality and retail and Town revival sectors, perhaps through simplifying licensing laws but how will Deputy Inder and the team of Deputies, Deputy Helyar,

Deputy Brouard, Deputy Prow, be able to do that if they do not consult the legal profession and the parochial authorities in order to ensure that liquor licensing remains robust?

940       **The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** I think I am going to answer generally. I think he was talking about liquor licences, *salles publiques*, all of that stuff, going to the Constables, possibly through the courts, to allow your retail provision to hang a handbag outside. I am sorry but it is entirely anachronistic for modern  
945 businesses in a modern Guernsey to be going through a licensing system that involves standing in front of, possibly in this room, begging for a liquor licence or possibly for having the ability to put a couple of chairs outside. I personally genuinely think that should be dispensed with immediately. Are we going to spend the next two years, Committees working on a small piece of work? The answer is probably no. But I think it is anachronistic and it is time it should finish.

950       **The Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

**Deputy Trott:** Thank you, sir. Can I start by reassuring the President of Economic Development that there is nothing malevolent in the question I am asking him and maybe he would just like to  
955 pause and reflect for a moment? The President has pleasingly advised that his Committee has been concentrating on economic recovery. It was one of the very first comments he made in his speech, So, sir, can the President elaborate on what actions over these last six months have indeed contributed to our economic recovery? It is an opportunity for him to shine, sir.

960       **The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** Oh dear. This is what parties give us, is it not? There you go. Had Deputy Trott listened to the speech, we spoke about tourism. That is heading in the right direction. He may remember as a Chair of Guernsey Finance, that one of the key parts of our economy is effectively  
965 the finance industry. He may remember, and I do not know if he reads his papers at all, sir, through you, but on Friday he would be sitting in one of his many roles on a board of considering a paper where this Government is considering investing a substantial amount more money in our primary sector.

          So, there are just two examples of the efforts that we have made and the promises that we have  
970 delivered. We told this States that we would be investing in the finance industry and we are looking to do that. We also told this Committee that we think tourism needed transforming and we are doing that. So those are two things that we have done that were in the speech and if he wants to get up and ask any more questions on the speech he is welcome to do that. In fact, I might even send it to him.

975       **The Bailiff:** Deputy Queripel.

**Deputy Queripel:** Sir, thank you. Deputy Inder said in his Statement the Committee is focussing on our recovery and we need to diversify our economy, which I was pleased to hear. Can he tell me  
980 please if his Committee has had any further discussions regarding introducing a permit system for the white van man?

          And regarding the red sign in the economy, bearing in mind the market that is out there for medicinal cannabis is a huge market, as Alderney Representative Roberts explained to us, tens of millions of pounds could be made from the market, which could possibly be the only industry that  
985 could bring in the sort of money we need in relation to diversifying our economy, can the President tell me how much of a priority it is to his Committee, please, to progress developments and support local businesses cultivating medicinal cannabis?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

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**Deputy Inder:** Sir, again sorry, I keep getting up too early before my name is called. I thought I answered the question regarding medicinal cannabis with my response to Alderney Representative Roberts. Every effort has been made, there has been an organisational failure over the last few years in terms of releasing the cultivation licences and establishing an MOU. Now over the last two months, a couple of us have stamped our feet quite heavily and we are addressing that.

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I also said in response to Deputy Roberts that we are looking at an MOU that I am hoping will be ready by the end of May. So, hopefully, that answers Deputy Queripel's question there. On the matter of what kind of is called, I suppose white van man, not for the first time this question has been answered but for the first time this came up in a Committee meeting yesterday, via Deputy Falla. He posed a question, the comparison was the Jersey model and the pushback that we got is effectively more bureaucracy, anti-competitive and the Committee certainly will not support it.

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Actually, having a licence, interesting enough and I was not aware of, having the Jersey model, which is a licence or people coming to work. Myopically, I was thinking of white van man. It is not white van, it is everyone who comes to work for Jersey and that effectively stopping business. In fact, I will not tell Members the trick Jersey has missed because something came up that actually benefited Guernsey –

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**The Bailiff:** You will not be able to effectively because your 90 seconds are up! I am extending the questioning again, just because there is comparatively little to do and I will call Deputy St Pier to ask the next question.

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**Deputy St Pier:** Thank you, sir, and this sort of partially follows on from Deputy Gollop's and a degree of contrast to the further regulation of the white van man, could perhaps Deputy Inder update us on the prioritisation of the red tape audit and when we might expect to see some deregulation as a result of the red tape audit?

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** Yes, I think again that is a fair challenge. Actually only two weeks ago I got a more substantial document, but this was back in 2015. What it has got on the front is an audit of the licence, permits and registrations and my basic guess is, I am going to say, there is about 40-45, maybe 50, types of licences.

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To be perfectly honest, looking through all of the licences, you think you could have a bonfire of the licences. It is not actually that easy. What are we going to do? Are we getting rid of the waste transport licence, possibly? Do we get rid of the medical practitioners' licence, or possibly the *[inaudible]*, the *salles publiques*, employer of workers? It is not that easy.

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We look like we are over-regulated but I think that most of these licences are fairly legitimate, so that is going to be difficult. Where I think we can do, and this stretches into another department and I do not want to speak in any way unkindly, I have said before that some of the levers for the economy do not always live with Economic Development. I genuinely think some of the levers for the economy actually live within the DPA and within the IDP and some of the focus should be there and I am glad to see Deputy Victoria Oliver and her Committee will bring in some form of exemptions later on in the year.

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy de Lisle.

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**Deputy de Lisle:** Thank you, sir. In terms of economic recovery, we live in different times, with all the pandemic around us, as the President has mentioned, which requires a different focus and much of what we have heard from the President was really part and parcel of the last Committee's focus. So, really, it is a matter of initiatives that we have got to look at, probably the lowering of the

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tax base might be one of them, in order to stimulate local development and local initiative. But what initiatives have the Committee to bear down on the difficulties that the community has been subjected to by COVID and for local business to grow and thrive in the future?

1045 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** I can talk about entrepreneurship – and again this is being led by Deputy Kazantseva-Miller so I do not want to be treading on her toes. We have recently had, in terms of recovery actions, we have a list of possible initiatives that the Government could consider and they are not all necessarily in with Economic Development. Some are actually with Home Department.

1050 For example, enterprise and investment visas. That is something that is being given some consideration and there has been some high-level thinking on access to finance and investments funds. As someone said to me, it is interesting that we basically invest something, £3 billion of our assets on other people's economies but Government does not necessarily invest or have access to funds for its internal economy.

1055 We are looking at, again this has been largely driven in terms of vocalisation by Deputy Kazantseva-Miller, enterprise zones. So those are things that we could give some consideration to to assist small businesses. But the real triggers are, what Government could actually do for a two- or three-year period, and this is not necessarily a suggestion, ESS might be able to give some latitude on Social Security payments for a couple of years. The Tax Department might be able to do something. There are little things that the Government can do but ultimately the big idea, whatever that idea must come from –

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder, I am afraid the 90 seconds have passed again. Deputy Burford.

1065 **Deputy Burford:** Thank you, sir. Deputy Inder referred in his speech to the need for sustainable economic growth. Could he please define sustainable in this context? Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

1070 **Deputy Inder:** We have got to be ... this is interesting. I am going to see the Chamber of Commerce I think it is sometime in the middle of this month, talking about sustainable tourism. The problem with that word sustainability, it means many different things to many different people. So in terms of the Guernsey conversation I think it is something the whole Assembly needs to have a conversation, what do they actually mean by sustainability?

1075 Now if you mean a sustainable holiday, that is easy. I do not go away for two weeks and I just walk down L'Eree – not L'Eree, it is too far for me, walk down Pembroke and that is my sustainable holiday. If I have got to actually fly to Guernsey or get a boat to Guernsey, that is not particularly sustainable but it might be more sustainable than flying to New Zealand. In terms of the sustainable economy growth activity, I think it is a conversation we need to have and we need to have it in the context of Guernsey and what it actually means and define what it means.

**The Bailiff:** Alderney Representative Roberts.

1085 **Alderney Representative Roberts:** Thank you, sir. Would the Chairman agree that ideas and business, like the cannabis industry, can restore Deputy Trott's love of Alderney in bringing us firmly back into the black?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

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**Deputy Inder:** I cannot speak for Deputy Trott but, sir, over the last four years, there is no two ways about it, I have certainly been a friend of Alderney and if work done via our own legislation, regulation work, helps Alderney then all power to everyone's elbow.

1095 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

1100 **Deputy Gollop:** Thank you, sir. Deputy Ferbrache in his speech and also Deputy Inder referred to the importance of connectivity, in particular sea links. Are Economic Development aware that Condor Ferries are now using a French vessel, or proposing to, that had been used on the Brittany Ferries run and will that mean that Economic Development can evaluate the use of potentially larger or more useful vessels for the Guernsey services, north and south?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

1105 **Deputy Inder:** Talking about size of vessels, we simply have a pier limitation, or two in fact. There is one in Jersey at 130 m and ours is around 145, if you stick a dolphin on the end – not that kind of dolphin – a large metal container at the end with an anchor attached to it. But operationally Condor have made a decision. I think the new owners, Threadneedle and Brittany Ferries, are the right company for Guernsey.

1110 As described there are certainly confidential conversations, which have been had, and that will come to its fruition in the next, I am going to say, three months, possibly three or four months. So we are where we are, through you, sir, Deputy Gollop. But the fact that operationally a company decides to use a certain size of vessel, is entirely up to them but size of vessel, for Guernsey, anyway, is determined by the size of the harbour and the depth of the harbours or the boat's under keel clearance at the lowest astronomical tide.

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy Oliver.

1120 **Deputy Oliver:** Thank you, sir. Just a really quick question. I have had a number of emails saying that they have booked Aurigny flights to regional areas for the summer and they have all actually been cancelled. Will Aurigny have regional flights to England over the summer this year?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder, are you able to answer the question?

1125 **Deputy Inder:** I do not think I can answer that because I do not speak for the company, it is not under our mandate. If they want to turn Economic into 'travel and transport' I would take it all tomorrow, but I think that question really goes to Deputy Roffey at some point.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Roffey.

1130 **Deputy Roffey:** Will Deputy Inder agree with me that it is Aurigny's intention to respond to demand and, as far as economically justifiable, increase, ramp up their services as the travel restrictions lift and demand picks up?

1135 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** I do not normally agree with Deputy Roffey, but I assume that is a statement of fact that he is asking me to agree with so in this case I will agree with Deputy Roffey.

1140 **The Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier.

**Deputy St Pier:** Sir, Deputy Inder has referred to the need for his Committee to work with other Committees. In that context could he perhaps provide a brief statement to the Assembly on what his Committee is doing, working with others to address the Island's housing crisis?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** That is a very interesting conversation because quite clearly we are in the middle of one. There is no two ways about that. It is affecting absolutely everything, it is affecting house movements all over the place. People cannot get into the market, people cannot sell the market, the Open Market is effectively full and that is a conversation that needs to be had.

But to answer Deputy Gavin St Pier's direct question, as an independent Deputy I am fully aware of it and have been aware of it for absolutely years but in terms of actual responsibility, I have had some and it is only Deputy to Deputy conversations with Property Services about releasing land that we have got, potentially, for building housing.

For example, to be perfectly frank with you, I would level Castel Hospital tomorrow. It has been sitting there for 25-30 years, it has got a couple of portacabins in the back, it is doing nothing and I do not know what we are waiting for. I would level it tomorrow and start building housing for key workers, local workers and that those necessarily do not want a rental, want to actually ... aspirational home-buyers in Guernsey. That is what I would be doing but I am not the King of Guernsey.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

**Deputy Trott:** Thank you, sir. My final question for Deputy Inder, again given in good faith. He said in his Statement that we are a risk-based economy. My question is do we take enough risks and if he thinks we do not, what might he like us to do in this regard?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

**Deputy Inder:** If we are talking about, I suppose, risk, which is connected to regulation, here is the good news. I am always told that Guernsey is overly regulated and to help, two of the people who have been most vociferous in it, one person has certainly been in one part of the finance sector, I have asked them: show me what the problem is.

Now those questions were asked two, three, probably four or five months ago and at no point, I can tell you now, I have had no response whatsoever. So one thing is the trope that Guernsey is over-regulated, when you actually ask people what the issue is, often you do not get the response. But in terms of the risk, I think it is sometimes mentally as well. I will give Deputy Trott a very example, we took a great risk with building the North Beach and that is the single infrastructure project, as Deputy Trott has informed me, that has actually made money. We need to take more risks and develop our infrastructure.

I think one of the great opportunities, as and whenever we see this, will be what we do with the harbour, marine trades and, effectively, tourism. That is where we need to be a little less risk-averse and just get on and do things sometimes, for the betterment not of us but for our future generations.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Gabriel.

**Deputy Gabriel:** Thank you, sir. In relation to the sea fisheries aspect of Economic Development's mandate, could the President confirm is the Sea Fisheries Department well enough resourced that stocks of ormers are protected in Guernsey and what is his view on commercial sale of ormers in retail outlets?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder.

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**Deputy Inder:** I think it is. I think one of the problems we have, it was actually – strangely enough and I did say to both Deputy Lindsay de Sausmarez, through you, sir, and Deputy Gabriel – that once you got over the licence agreements that we will have with Europe we will turn our focus, to a degree, to the fishing industry locally.

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Ormers, I am afraid, are going to come into scope in some way. It is not going to be an un-tricky conversation to have. One of the things we certainly need to do, straight way, I think it was back in 1998, in a bit of drafting legislation, something just fell off the legislation. Before 1998 – I am going to say 1998, it might have been 1988 – you were not allowed to fish at night time for ormers.

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As a consequence of a failure in the drafting, you now can. That is quite an easy fix. So to answer Deputy Gabriel's question, one thing we could do is disbar people from collecting ormers at night, hopefully fairly simply. With that alone, that would be at least 12 hours of every ormering day to keep the sea fisheries officers' focussed on those who are fishing in the daytime rather than the night.

## Questions for Oral Answer

### POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

#### Government communication techniques

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**The Bailiff:** Members of the States, we will now move into Question Time proper and Deputy Gollop has a set of questions to pose to the President of the Policy & Resources Committee. Your first question please, Deputy Gollop.

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**Deputy Gollop:** Thank you very much, sir. Hopefully, these will be proper questions, too. My first question to Deputy Ferbrache is many people, including myself, would agree and commend that Covid Civil Contingencies Authority broadcasting hours via the Government website and Facebook and BBC Radio Guernsey has been very impactful and successful. Will they continue throughout the year on a regular basis?

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**The Bailiff:** And Deputy Ferbrache to reply please.

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**Deputy Ferbrache:** Thank you, sir. I am grateful to Deputy Gollop for this question and his other questions. The media briefings have been an important tool in the communication strategy since the early days of the pandemic, reaching live viewing figures of up to 12,000 people on some broadcasts, as well as the many more who view the recordings later on the web or social media or listen on the radio.

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The frequency of the briefings has always been reflective of need. At some stage, briefings have been three times a week and when the change of messaging and urgency of the communication reduced, so has the frequency. As it stands, the briefings are scheduled for once every two weeks and you can book your passage now and listen to the wonderful words that will be eloquated over the broadcast at one o'clock on Friday and they continue to be a feature of the communication strategy for as long as is needed.

**The Bailiff:** A supplementary question, Deputy Gollop?

1235 **Deputy Gollop:** Yes, sir. Whilst looking forward to Friday's broadcast, we have had special editions ranging from Deputy Dudley-Owen speaking about educational schools issues to Easter bunnies to children's questions, could we have more special editions focussing on the economy and the impact on, for example, transport, tourism, hospitality, trade and various business sectors moving forward?

1240 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

1245 **Deputy Ferbrache:** I think it will depend, sir. It will depend on what the current position is and what we think at the Civil Contingencies Authority is relevant. For example, one of the people that we had that spoke when there were questions, concerns about law and order, was the Head of Law Enforcement. So, it will depend on the circumstances. I am not giving a commitment now that we will have such and such from Economic Development or whatever. But it will depend on the circumstances.

1250 **The Bailiff:** Your second question, then, please Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** Thank you and I have a supplementary for this as well, please, thank you, sir. My second question is the latest Budget, last Christmas, was also done and broadcast on a live-feed format. Was it considered a successful experiment and process and will it continue?

1255 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache to reply.

1260 **Deputy Ferbrache:** Thank you very much, sir. As the format has worked so well for the pandemic, it is one that can be used for other large announcements and indeed it did work well for the Budget. Community engagement has increased significantly over the last 18 months and the Committee is keen to continue and build on this engagement.

1265 Media briefings are one way to do this but it is important that the briefing format is not over-used so the public continue to understand, should a media briefing be announced, there is a significant update for the community. Ultimately it is for each Committee to decide if there is a topic that could warrant this type of broadcast and the communications team have a role in advising on and facilitating such events.

**The Bailiff:** Supplementary question, Deputy Gollop.

1270 **Deputy Gollop:** Apologies for phrasing the question in an ambivalent way because I was aware that the parliamentary Budget debate was streamed but in this instance I did clarify eventually that I was referring to the Beau Séjour presentation. To that end, bearing in mind some presentations get 12,000 viewers and I suspect the States of Deliberation does not always get 12,000 listeners, would the President not agree that using these techniques more vigorously will actually engage more public than current parliamentary methods in some instances?

1275 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

1280 **Deputy Ferbrache:** I think, sir, I covered that in the answer, really, in the sense that I did not understand the ambiguity of it, I do not think there was any ambiguity in Deputy Gollop's question. It is something that should be used sensibly, prudently, in accordance with the need. We all would not want to watch the same episode of *Coronation Street* every night. We would want to watch different ones, sparingly, as the time goes on, although I have not watched *Coronation Street* for a long time, but I suppose I may in the future.

1285 **The Bailiff:** Your third question, then, please Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** My third and final question on this theme, before hopefully a supplementary, is can the Government digitally move onwards and forwards with considering regular, frequent, new media publicly streamed broadcast hours and press conferences, confirming policy for all Committee Members and Presidents?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

**Deputy Ferbrache:** Sir, prior to the pandemic, live-streaming was a tool already in use at a number of public meetings, with the public able to attend in person or watch online. Those in the room were able to ask questions and a facilitator was present to ensure questions raised via live-streaming were also answered. The media briefings are a slightly different format, but again use of technology was such to reach and engage with as many people as possible. The communications team will continue to find ways of using technology to the best advantage and are available to advise Committee Members and Presidents on how best to employ it for the advantage of all.

**The Bailiff:** Supplementary question, Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** Thanking you and the good answer implies that resources permitting the central communications team would discuss with any Committee or States' body the possibility of releasing information or questions to the media in ways different than conventional ways, so maybe that is a conversation all Committees can have?

**The Bailiff:** Is there a question there, Deputy Gollop?

**Deputy Gollop:** Would Policy & Resources support other Committees having that opportunity?

**The Bailiff:** There you are. Deputy Ferbrache.

**Deputy Ferbrache:** Yes, sir.

**Deputy Gollop:** Thank you.

## COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

### Infrastructure repair work

**The Bailiff:** The second set of questions in Question Time are from Deputy Vermeulen, being posed to the President of the Committee *for the* Environment & Infrastructure. So your first question please, Deputy Vermeulen.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** Thank you, sir. These are on the subject of infrastructure repairs, following on from grave concerns over the lack of progress and the arrival of the 2021 tourist season.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen, you do not get the opportunity to make a preamble, just go to the question please.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** Okay. So, Deputy de Sausmarez, in relation to the officer-level discussions which Policy & Resources mentioned previously on this subject, were those initiated by Environment & Infrastructure or by Policy & Resources?

**The Bailiff:** The President, Deputy de Sausmarez, to reply.

1335 **Deputy de Sausmarez:** Thank you, sir. The discussions were opened by officers serving the Committee *for the* Environment & Infrastructure, at the request of the Committee. We felt that it was vital to engage with officers and Treasury, to develop a joined up approach to ensure effective delivery of works to support the political ambition.

1340 This positivity was reciprocated by officers serving the Policy & Resources Committee and the conversations that have taken place at political level have been similarly constructive. My Committee is not particularly concerned with where a discussion starts, it is more focussed on working with other Committees where appropriate, to achieve what is best for Guernsey.

**The Bailiff:** Is this a supplementary question, Deputy Vermeulen, or your second question?

1345 **Deputy Vermeulen:** This is question two, sir.

**The Bailiff:** Question two, thank you.

1350 **Deputy Vermeulen:** So, Deputy de Sausmarez, what progress, if any, has Environment & Infrastructure made since last month on progressing any of the much needed and urgently required repairs to our infrastructure, given that Policy & Resources, together with the public, have clearly indicated a need for rapid and effective action?

1355 **The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** There is plenty of progress to report since last month. A local company has been appointed through the tender process for the next steps on the work required at Fermain, an options appraisal and the scoping of further site investigation requirements is due to commence imminently.

1360 Tenders have also been returned for a valuation for the site investigation works below the Clarence Battery and the zig-zag path opposite Octopus at La Vallette. Appointment for the works will take place in early May. Drafting of tender documents is currently underway for the works at Ladies' and Children's Bathing Pools.

1365 Preparations for our proactive work on our coastal defence infrastructure are progressing well. Given the impact of the weather, work is programmed to be carried out in the calmer summer period where possible and will therefore begin on schedule in May. Four sea walls are prioritised for major re-pointing works in 2021: Havelet, Catoroc to Perelle, St George's Esplanade, and Grand Port.

1370 **The Bailiff:** Supplementary question, Deputy Vermeulen.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** So what sort of company? You mention a company but it is it a construction company or is it a team of engineers, is it quantity surveyors? What type of company?

1375 **The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.

1380 **Deputy de Sausmarez:** Sir, I am not sure what the parameters are for the operational detail of the particular firm but as I said in my answer to the question, it is to do the work of an options appraisal and the scoping of further site investigation requirements. It is a multi-phased project and it is quite complex, including in technical detail.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** Further supplementary?

**The Bailiff:** Second supplementary, Deputy Vermeulen.

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**Deputy Vermeulen:** Would I assume from that answer, Deputy de Sausmarez, that you have not yet got a builder in mind?

**The Bailiff:** The question is does that mean you have not got a builder in mind? Deputy de Sausmarez.

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**Deputy de Sausmarez:** As I explained in my previous response, it is a multi-phased project. The work that is commencing imminently is an options appraisal and the scoping for further investigations. What will come out of that is a recommendation. Once there is a recommendation and that has been agreed there will be detailed design work done on the preferred way forward, on the agreed option, and after that, that is when the physical work can commence. So it is multi-phased, it is complex, it is time-consuming and it does involve a high degree of skilled input.

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop, supplementary.

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**Deputy Gollop:** I appreciate this is difficult for the President to answer, perhaps, but how easy is it for the Committee to both oversee and direct projects like this in terms of procurement when you are balancing quality, cost, local supplier, enrichment of our economy, environmental competence and perhaps in some cases quality of the planning design? In other words, what would the Committee consider the most important determinant?

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** Sir, I do not think I can single out a single most important determinant. There is a well-established procurement process, which takes into account the kinds of considerations that Deputy Gollop quite rightly raises.

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**The Bailiff:** Your third question, then, please, Deputy Vermeulen.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** Thank you, sir. Given it took Environment & Infrastructure seven years to produce a tender document for the repair of Fermain Sea Wall, should the public put 2027 in their diaries for the tender document for repair to Le Douit de Moulin Slipway to be published?

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.

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**Deputy de Sausmarez:** Several of Deputy Vermeulen's assumptions are incorrect and my Committee is very happy to engage ahead of formal questions so that we can assist with factually accurate information. Work to repair the Douit de Moulin Slipway began earlier this week and should be complete by the end of May. Important constraints are the availability of local skilled craftsmen for this kind of work and the seasonality of the work.

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A further factor that delayed this particular project was lockdown, although I hope that is not something that we will have to contend with again. I will also take the opportunity to correct a couple of misconceptions in the question about Fermain. As most are aware, the focus of that work and the main expense is not the wall itself but the soft cliff behind it. The wall was not built as a sea defence but as a military defence and the cliff is susceptible to landslips, even without the action of the sea, as illustrated by the recent slip to the south of the wall failure.

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Following the breach, priority was given to coastal defences that protect critical infrastructure such as roads, utility networks and businesses. The previous Committee was nonetheless determined to progress work at Fermain and a tender for a specialist options appraisal and design work was issued in 2019. Disappointingly, no tender responses were received but officers held

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follow-up meetings with potential tenderers and, despite COVID, a revised tender was subsequently issued earlier this year.

**The Bailiff:** Supplementary question, Deputy Dudley-Owen.

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**Deputy Dudley-Owen:** I thank the President of the Environment & Infrastructure Committee for her responses so far. One of those has elicited my interest here in regard to the Douit du Moulin Slipway. Does the President, can she tell the Assembly whether that is a heritage slipway, what has happened to the granite that was taken out by the storm, because it seems to have disappeared, and how will the repairs be carried out? Will they be replaced by concrete or the original granite? Thank you.

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**The Bailiff:** Which of those three questions do you want Deputy de Sausmarez to answer, because you are only allowed two supplementary questions?

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**Deputy Dudley-Owen:** All of them.

**The Bailiff:** No because you are only allowed two. So, forget the heritage slipway one, but do the rest, Deputy de Sausmarez, how about that?

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**Deputy de Sausmarez:** I am happy to have a stab, actually, at combining an answer to Deputy Dudley-Owen's questions. It is actually a very interesting slipway, a subject of great interest by Deputy Taylor, who I thank for all his constructive input over this political term. It was originally obviously a granite-settled slipway. I do not know what the technical term for that but actually there were repairs done in I think the 1960's, which were concrete, so it is a bit of a hybrid, if you like, before the more recent damage was done.

1460

It is something that, in fact, this Committee and the previous Committee had to think long and hard about. The repairs will be as much granite as has been saved and stored, obviously some has been lost, that is the nature of storms unfortunately. The current repairs are going to be in concrete because the granite equivalent would have been vastly more expensive and would have taken a very significant amount of time.

1465

It was a hybrid to start with and it will be more of a hybrid going forward; if that makes sense to Deputy Dudley-Owen. It is one of the very difficult sets of considerations that have to be taken into account but given the fiscal climate, the cost consideration really was pertinent.

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**Deputy Vermeulen:** Supplementary question, sir.

**The Bailiff:** I am pausing. Deputy Taylor, are you not on this Committee?

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**Deputy Taylor:** No.

**The Bailiff:** You are not. Well Deputy Taylor, then, and then Deputy Vermeulen.

**Deputy Taylor:** Thank you, sir. I have forgotten my question now! The repairs to the slipway have taken place over a period of time with several temporary repairs, many of which constituted the indiscriminate pouring of concrete into a hole which was being eroded. Can the President assure Members that a proper, engineered design is what we are going forward with, as opposed to more concrete poured in a hole that is slowly being made bigger?

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.

1485

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** Yes. Deputy Taylor is right. There were some temporary repairs and they did also suffer in storm damage. This is one of the problems, especially with these kinds of heritage structures, you never really know what is underneath until that is exposed and you also never really know how it is going to fare in the event of another storm event.

But I can certainly reassure Deputy Taylor that the subsequent damage was not as a result of any kind of shoddy workmanship, it was just the intensity of the storm event that this absolutely, because it will be a permanent repair, as opposed to a temporary repair, we are very hopeful, I am touching wood as I speak, should last the test of at least some time.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen, were you rising for a supplementary question?

**Deputy Vermeulen:** I was, yes.

**The Bailiff:** Supplementary, Deputy Vermeulen.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** Deputy de Sausmarez, what will the fate of those granite stones that are tumbling around on the west coast in the surf, at the bottom of the beach at La Douit du Moulin, what will their fate be? Will they be incorporated or are you just going for the cheaper option of concrete as a repair?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** As I explained in a previous answer, any granite that could have been salvaged has been salvaged and is kept in a store. This is not the first event of its kind. It probably will not be the last. That is always put to good re-use wherever possible. The nature of this particular repair to La Douit du Moulin is going to be largely concrete.

I cannot say with any certainty the precise ratio of any particular granite work versus concrete work, I imagine there will be some tidying up involved in the design but it will be primarily concrete repair because of the cost considerations and also actually because of the time that the granite equivalent would have taken that would have left it out of action.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Taylor, second supplementary.

**Deputy Taylor:** Thank you, sir. On one of my recent swims at Havelet Bay, not related to the SESB slipway but the slipway that comes up along the main front, where recently the Guernsey Electricity Cable came up through and the coins were removed and replaced *beautifully*, but there did not appear to be a great amount of cross-Committee work to ensure that the full slipway, whilst we had men on site working, made full repairs.

So what we have is a situation where the middle is beautiful but the surrounding structure is in a pretty poor state. Would the Committee *for the Environment & Infrastructure* be willing to work with other Committees when these projects come up, to ensure the best use of public funds?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** Sir, I cannot quite see how that arises out of the answer but I think the short answer is yes, but as Deputy Taylor is aware, the Havelet Slipway is under the authority of the Harbours, so yes, of course, in principle, more than happy to work with any other Committee or authority, as will benefit the Island.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen, your fourth question next, please.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** Thank you, sir. Would the President of Environment & Infrastructure categorise the failure to effect any coastal repair work at any discernible pace a political or Civil Service failure and what steps are being taken by the Committee to correct it?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** Had Deputy Vermeulen engaged with the Committee before submitting these questions we would have been more than happy to run him through the capital investment of the last few years at Bulwer Avenue, Vazon, Longstore, Admiral Park, Perelle, Fort Gray, the Red Lion and many other sites, on top of an average of 90 projects per year of proactive routine and reactive maintenance funded through our revenue budget.

If this work had not been carried out, the impact would have been very discernible indeed. Since 2016, around £5 million has been spent on maintenance of our coastal defence infrastructure but historic under-investment prior to that has resulted in the current situation where there is more work needed than there are funds available.

Expenditure must be prioritised and greatest priority has had to be given to sea defences that protect key infrastructure such as roads, sewers and cables, and that would be damaged if the defence failed. It is no coincidence that the areas Deputy Vermeulen highlights are not coastal defences but features like slipways, military structures, steps and paths, which inevitably score much lower than sea walls and therefore do not do as well in any capital prioritisation process.

However, my Committee has been working with Policy & Resources on a new strategic approach that will separately categorise coastal defences that protect against the incursion of the sea and coastal features that do not but may have aesthetic cultural and historic importance, so that they do not have to compete directly for the same funds. I am encouraged that P&R have shown an interest in these coastal features and hopeful that this new approach will result in the progress that Deputy Vermeulen will discern.

**The Bailiff:** Supplementary question, Deputy Vermeulen?

**Deputy Vermeulen:** Supplementary, yes. So these infrastructure things which I am mistakenly referring to, apparently, are not scoring so well, Deputy de Sausmarez. However, it is, as I mentioned earlier, a source of concern for Island residents and tourists that visit these beautiful Islands. Could you perhaps give consideration in future to giving structures like this more weighting and perhaps less chit-chat and more action on effecting repairs?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** Sir, with reference to the visitors that visit our beautiful shores, I am sure that had the important works on the coastal defence infrastructure, which actually protect against incursion of the sea at Vazon, for example, preventing inundation of the sea, you know, near a very nice hotel in that area, for example, is regarded as very important.

I did try to explain in my answer to the original question that this is exactly the problem. There is a huge amount of work that does take place in terms of coastline work, coastal defences as we commonly bundle them up but, yes, the sort of feature side, the military defences, the slipways, the things that do not actually provide, whose main purpose is not to defend against the incursion of the sea, inevitably score lower because we cannot de-prioritise the protection afforded to critical infrastructure such as our utilities networks, for example, along the eastern sea board and indeed our west coast.

So, yes, Deputy Vermeulen is correct to say that this has been, they have suffered as a result of being played against each other, essentially, having to compete against each other and this is exactly why we are working with Policy & Resources to develop a new strategic approach, which will hopefully result in –

1590 **The Bailiff:** That is your 90 seconds, Deputy de Sausmarez, I am afraid. Deputy St Pier, supplementary question.

1595 **Deputy St Pier:** Yes, supplementary question. Is it not the case that one of the major constraints on sea defences and other repairs in the last five years has not been financial resources but it has actually been other resources including project management and of course the skilled resources required in the community to be commissioned to actually undertake the work? Has that not been a greater constraint?

1600 **The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** Thank you, sir. Yes, that is absolutely correct and we have got understandably a very good but limited pool of, I do not want to use the word labour actually because it is very skilled work when it comes to things like sea wall repointing, but there is only a certain amount of work that that market can deliver on.

1605 So that is one of the constraints. Another of the constraints is weather. As I mentioned in one of my answers, we do tend to have to do a lot of the work in the calmer summer period. There are also internal constraints, as Deputy St Pier alluded to, in terms of the in-house engineering resource that we have. There are also in terms of resource, constraints around the level of really specialist expertise, for example geotechnical engineering expertise, of which it is pretty niche and not something generally that we have on-Island.

1610 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Inder, supplementary question.

**Deputy Inder:** Seriously, sir, I am sure I might get told off, I remember back there was a time when a lot of the stone work around the north and western coast was done without a sight of a consultant. It was angle of repose, there was a large JCB, a couple of trucks, and effectively large, four-tonne, three-tonne boulders were laid against the side of Guernsey and that is what it was. Might the President of the Committee agree with me that we have gone too far with the consultancy bit in some areas? We seem to do a lot of consultancy and not a lot of action and might the Committee at some point take a risk to go back to actually what were the good old days where you could just lay stones against the headland and they would never ever move, as they have not down at Port Grat, Port Soif, Portinfer.

1625 **The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** Deputy Inder raises a number of different points there. I think he is alluding to the use of rock armour, that was the main thrust. Of course we do that, and that is the current strategy. I would also point him to the reference I made to the projects, the proactive maintenance and reactive maintenance projects that we carry out under our revenue budget, which have got not a consultant in sight. That is the vast majority of the work that we do.

1630 The consultancy expertise we only get in – we have got a finite budget, not enough budget for the work required – we would only ever use a consultant if we absolutely had to. It is a very small proportion of the work that we do. But I would also say that the so-called good old days were really not very good in terms of their long-term results.

1635 It was that historic under-investment, the lack of strategic approach that actually has resulted in the situation that we are now trying to get on top of today. So I would say I am a lot more confident with the approach as it stands today than it probably did 10 years ago.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy St Pier, second supplementary.

1640

**Deputy St Pier:** Sir, in relation to the sorts of projects that Deputy Vermeulen was asking about with his question, it feels that a JCB and rock armour would not necessarily solve the problem but would it be the case that if Deputy Vermeulen were to lobby Policy & Resources to provide more resources to the Environment & Infrastructure Committee, in particular project management, that actually it might be easier to give higher priority to some of those items, which have scored more lowly up to this point?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** I am not sure that there is any need for Deputy Vermeulen to lobby the Policy & Resources Committee because E&I is actually working, I think constructively, with Policy & Resources, and we are very grateful for those conversations, which are ongoing.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Taylor.

**Deputy Taylor:** Thank you, sir. The President referenced legacy issues and historical lack of investment into the Island's infrastructure of the sea defences. Does she feel the current level of investment and workload going into our Island infrastructure is sustainable or are we adding to that big legacy pile as we go? Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** I would definitely say we are playing catch-up, effectively so, because I think it was actually Deputy Burford who would probably have some good insight because I think things came to a real head around 2014 when that was in her mandate at the time. It is certainly true to say that we are in a phase of having to play catch-up for historic under-investment and a lack of strategic approach in days gone by.

It is also true to say that were money no object and were human resources no object, we would be doing more than we are now. However, what I do not know the answer to but I am slightly optimistic is that at some point in the foreseeable future we will have caught up enough that we can, you know, knock back the amount of work that has to be done on a regular basis because that period of catch-up will be complete and our business as usual will be on a more sustainable level. I hope that answers Deputy Taylor's question.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Trott, supplementary question.

**Deputy Trott:** Yes, sir, partly to demonstrate my non-partisan approach to Question Time and with reference to all of the very good answers that Deputy de Sausmarez has given, for the purpose of measurement and monitoring by this Assembly when might we anticipate seeing work on non-sea defence projects commence, again bearing in mind all of the previous excellent answers she has given?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** I think, if the question is about when can we see them commence, I would say they have already commenced. For example, there has been a successful tender on Fermain, which is not categorised as a sea defence, it is a military defence and a cliff stabilisation issue, etc.

However, when he might see the kind of progress that I think Deputy Vermeulen would like to see, if that is the question, then I would hope soon, because we are working on, as I say, a new strategic approach, which is, let us call it a coastline strategy, I do not know of that is the name that will end up being published, but I hope that that will make really clear what the approach is and

that will allow us to create a more tangible and visible way forward in terms of dealing with those coastal features, such as the military defences and your slipways and your steps and your paths, etc.

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy Vermeulen, second supplementary.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** So, Deputy de Sausmarez, on listening to your last answer, I think the question has got to be not merely when works commence and bills, quantities are drawn up and tenders are received, but when you anticipate, indeed, that these much-needed repairs are effected? What is the completion date, please, for those projects that I have mentioned to you?

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** Sir, there will not be a single completion date for the projects that Deputy Vermeulen has mentioned and this is going to be an ongoing thing. As I have explained, there are two very distinct, different types of coastal defence, if you like. There is the coastal defence proper, which protects against the inundation of the sea, erosion, etc., flooding and there are coastal features whose primary purpose is not to protect against the inundation of the sea, etc., but may have cultural or historic or some other kind of significance that is worthy of protection, enhancement, etc.

1710

So the simple answer to Deputy Vermeulen's question is when we have agreed a coastline strategy and, as I have said, that is something that we are working on with Policy & Resources, conversations have been very constructive, but there is not going to be a simple wave of the wand. I am very hopeful that, once we have managed to agree this kind of strategy that we will be able to put more resources into that type of work but that is an ongoing conversation.

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I am as keen as Deputy Vermeulen, if not a lot keener, to complete much of this work. But, of course, over the years, it is not as though none of it has been done, it is just it has always been impossible to prioritise ahead of the things that have caused critical failures in things like utility networks and various things like that.

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez, your 90 seconds are over. So your fifth and final question to the President, please, Deputy Vermeulen.

**Deputy Vermeulen:** Sir, I have found it here, and you will be pleased it is the fifth and final. Deputy de Sausmarez, would Environment & Infrastructure consider transferring all its infrastructure and maintenance and repair responsibilities to Policy & Resources?

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**The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez.

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**Deputy de Sausmarez:** E&I is fully committed to and engaged in delivering on its mandate, which does not include a review of the Machinery of Government.

**The Bailiff:** Supplementary question, Deputy Vermeulen.

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**Deputy Vermeulen:** I take it that that is a no? I can only hope from your answer that you will have considered some of these points that really do need action and I do hope and wish you every success in completing these points quickly. I hope the question would be something like would you be open to working together with myself on seeing the swift completion of these contracts, instead, then?

1740

**The Bailiff:** There you are, Deputy de Sausmarez to reply.

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** Of course. I very much welcome constructive engagement and actually, as I said in some of my answers, had Deputy Vermeulen perhaps come to engage with us prior to the formal submission, the submission of formal questions, we might actually have been able to provide him with some of the information he has been looking for.

But I certainly would reiterate a fact that I think I have made a boring number of times now, that we are already working very closely with P&R and those conversations have been constructive and I am very hopeful that they will result in the kinds of things that Deputy Vermeulen is very keen to see, as am I.

## CIVIL CONTINGENCIES AUTHORITY

### Reintroduction of country and regional categories and business tunnels from 23rd April 2021

**The Bailiff:** And the final Member asking questions at this meeting is Deputy de Lisle, who has two questions to the Chairman of the Civil Contingencies Authority. Deputy de Lisle, your first question.

**Deputy de Lisle:** Sir, the 14-day policy treating all destinations as Category 4, has stood Guernsey in good stead, namely all arrivals are subjected to a COVID test on the day of arrival and on day 13 and there is self-isolation until negative results from both tests and, if arrivals decline a test, then self-isolation is committed for 21 days. Now, why change this policy at a time when Europe is undergoing a third wave of COVID-19 and when Prime Minister Boris Johnson has stated publicly that he expects a third wave of the virus to hit the UK?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache to reply.

**Deputy Ferbrache:** Sir, in reaching its decision to reintroduce the country and regional categories for determining the self-isolation requirements for those travelling into the Bailiwick, the Civil Contingencies Authority has considered detailed evidence from the Director of Public Health on prevalent rates for COVID-19 and the vaccine programmes in the UK, across Europe and beyond and the associated trends, as well as the impact of the emergency of variants of concern, for example the so-called Kent variant.

Any restrictions the Authority places on the rights and freedoms of individuals must relate to the emergency – that is the threat from COVID of serious damage to human welfare in the Bailiwick and be necessary, urgent and proportionate. In short, there must be no more than necessary to mitigate the threat that the emergency presents.

The Authority is satisfied that the reintroduction of these categories is sufficiently flexible, responsive and proportionate to ensure a fair balance between the rights of the individual and the duty to protect the wider community from COVID-19. It is important to highlight that in assessing the prevalence rates for any region, a rolling average of the last 14 days is used instead of the last seven days, which the UK relies upon. This is a safer and more stable approach. In addition, the Director of Public Health has the power to act in the event that there are any Public Health concerns relating to a specific area.

**The Bailiff:** Supplementary question, Deputy de Lisle.

**Deputy de Lisle:** If I can ask a supplementary, sir. The Chairman mentions the threat of COVID and nobody wants a third lockdown, sir, which would lead to more business failures and huge personal and economic cost, as the Chairman points out. Does the Chair of CCA, Deputy Ferbrache,

1790 agree with me that relaxing the borders at this time is taking a risk of a third lockdown for Guernsey, given the Island is surrounded by the pandemic, with Europe undergoing a third wave and new variants of the virus spreading? Recently, of course, India believed it was clear. The country opened up and now finds itself in a state of emergency.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

1795 **Deputy Ferbrache:** Sir, again I refer back to the written answer, which I have just read. It has been a matter of consideration by the Authority that we act following the advice, but we take responsibility for acting. The responsibility is that of the politicians in deciding and making the decisions that I have referred to.

1800 I do not want to be flippant, because this is too important a topic to be flippant, but life is a risk. There can be no absolute guarantee. What we believe and the word that governs us throughout – we get advice from the Procureur or the Comptroller every single time we have a meeting and quite properly so – is that we must act proportionately. We believe that in good faith and on the balance of the evidence that we have been given, that we are acting proportionately.

1805 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop, supplementary question.

1810 **Deputy Gollop:** Whilst acknowledging and supporting the CCA and the Chief Minister acting in accordance with rigorous probity and great advice, would he not agree with me that it is perhaps difficult to understand why Guernsey's relaxations are different in certain respects from Jersey's relaxations and, if we are to have a bubble for our social and economic convenience, would it not be a good idea for the Islands, now we have zero and two cases, respectively, to work together more to go onto the next stage?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

1815 **Deputy Ferbrache:** Thank you, sir. We have to do the best that we believe for our community, and I have no doubt that our colleagues in Jersey are doing the best that they believe for their community. Both sides tried to achieve the same goal, which is to open up the economies safely. There might be a slight difference of approach. We will liaise and we are liaising with Jersey and the Isle of Man to see what opportunities there can be for a bubble forming, call it whatever you will, in relation to going forward.

1820 But I cannot pretend that is going to happen tomorrow or next week. It will be something that is the actuality and the realisation of a decision but it is something that we are looking at. Again, Guernsey makes policy which it believes is in Guernsey's best interests, Jersey must do what it believes is in their Island's best interest.

**The Bailiff:** Your second question to the Chairman, then, please, Deputy de Lisle.

1830 **Deputy de Lisle:** Thank you, sir. The CCA has agreed to permit business tunnels being again permitted from 23rd April, allowing controlled short trips into the Bailiwick for business reasons that cannot be achieved remotely. Given past concern over communicating business visits, what level of transparency will be provided and announced in advance and before future visits?

**The Bailiff:** And Deputy Ferbrache to reply please.

1835 **Deputy Ferbrache:** Sir, the Authority will not be providing details of individual applications for a business tunnel, as it is mindful that in many cases the reasons for the application may be commercially sensitive and/or to conduct personal or family business, which must remain confidential to the applicant and those designated by the Authority to determine the applications.

1840 Business tunnels will be operated on a similar basis to the arrangements which were in place  
between July and November of last year. Each application will be subject to compliance with a  
detailed method statement, the notification procedure, the conditions which must be satisfied and  
a sample method statement will be published on the States' website. Business tunnels will only be  
1845 permitted from a region where the prevalence of the infection is less than 100 per 100,000, in other  
words equivalent to a Category 3 region.

**The Bailiff:** Supplementary question, Deputy de Lisle.

1850 **Deputy de Lisle:** A single supplementary, sir. Deputy Ferbrache mentions the fact that business  
tunnels will be operated on a similar basis to the arrangements which were in place between July  
and November. Given public health concerns surrounding the high risk of transmission of COVID  
to Islanders through business tunnels and their recent withdrawal, for that reason, what has changed  
since November 2020 to justify reopening business tunnels on a similar basis to that before, in light  
of the third wave in Europe, the PM's comment and the prevalence of new mutations.

1855 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

1860 **Deputy Ferbrache:** I think, sir, that is covered really by the verbal answers I have previously  
given and the written answers to both questions. We are in a situation now where, from recently,  
we have moved forward. We have had regard to the vaccination process, we have had regard to  
where we are in relation to the world, we have had regard to other areas.

We are not opening up in relation to areas, we will not permit business tunnels in connection  
with areas that go outside of the prevalence rates to which I have already referred. We believe that  
is proportionate and reasonable. We believe that is achievable. Again, as I have indicated in my  
1865 answers, if that decision changes then the Director of Public Health and the Civil Contingencies  
Authority will make a different decision.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Queripel.

1870 **Deputy Queripel:** Sir, you may rule this out of order but I will give it a try. I am concerned about  
the levels of monitoring placed on travellers here via business tunnels being expected to go into  
self-isolation upon their arrival. Could Deputy Ferbrache tell me please how those travellers are  
monitored on a daily basis when they are in self-isolation and do we simply trust that they will travel  
directly to their place of self-isolation or are they chaperoned by someone in authority?

1875 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

1880 **Deputy Ferbrache:** Well sir, business tunnels operate in a very near sphere. We live in a tiny  
Island. Are they chaperoned? I cannot say they are chaperoned from A to B but they do not have  
to go very far from A to B because they get off the planes, go to the business tunnel and they go  
back again.

I think Deputy Queripel's point was a bit wider than that in relation to self-isolation. Self-isolation  
generally, whether it is for a seven-day period, a 14-day period or whatever, is supervised. People  
make checks and tests. We know that certain people have abused it and they have been the subject  
1885 of prosecutions before the court.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

1890 **Deputy Gollop:** Sir, despite wishing sometimes to pose questions at the media briefings, my  
question would be is there any real evidence, this year at least, that any essential workers who come

in in bubbles, business bubbles, business tunnels, to do essential meetings or operations, that there has been any community seeding of any virus in any way as a result of those meetings?

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

1895

**Deputy Ferbrache:** Again, in relation to matters of, I think Deputy Gollop is talking about what caused the breach which gave rise to the second lockdown. I think that is his main point.

**Deputy Gollop:** Yes since New Year.

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**Deputy Ferbrache:** I am grateful for him for confirming that. The answer is that very detailed research, inquiries, evidence and effort was made and the answer is we cannot trace it.

If we could and if there was a clear breach that person again would have been subject to consideration of a prosecution by the prosecuting authorities and if there was sufficient evidence, would have been brought before the courts. All we can say is that the isolation, research, supervision, is significant. But can one ever say that anything is totally failsafe and beyond any kind of breach? No, you cannot.

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**The Bailiff:** Well, Members of the States, that now concludes Question Time and we will move onto the first item of substantive business, please Greffier.

1910

## Billet d'État IX

### ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

#### PRESIDING OFFICER

#### 1. Election of a Member of the Priaulx Library Council – Mrs Yasmin Le Huray elected

*Article 1.*

*The States are asked:*

*(1) To elect a member of the Priaulx Library Council, who need not be a Member of the States, to replace Mr Gordon Snell whose term of office expired on the 31st December 2020 and who does not seek re-election, in accordance with Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation.*

**The States' Greffier:** Article 1, Election of a member of the Priaulx Library Council.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy de Sausmarez, I understand you have a candidate to propose?

1915

**Deputy de Sausmarez:** I do, sir. I am very pleased to nominate Mrs Yasmin Le Huray as a member of the Priaulx Library Council for a term of two years, to replace Mr Gordon Snell. I have known –

**The Bailiff:** You cannot speak about this, I am afraid. We are simply seeing how many candidates we are going to have, to start with. Is that seconded?

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**Deputy Kazantseva-Miller:** Yes, sir.

1925 **The Bailiff:** Thank you very much, Deputy Kazantseva-Miller. Are there any other candidates for election to this particular office? Well on that basis I will simply put it to you, Members of the States, that Yasmin Le Huray, who has been proposed by Deputy de Sausmarez and seconded by Deputy Kazantseva-Miller be elected to the Priaulx Library Council. Those in favour; those against?

1930 *Members voted Pour.*

**The Bailiff:** I declare Mrs Le Huray duly elected.

## STATES' TRADING SUPERVISORY BOARD

### 2. Appointment of a Non-Executive Director – Guernsey Electricity Limited – Mrs Joanne Peacegood appointed

*Article 2.*

*The States are asked to decide:-*

*Whether, after consideration of the policy letter entitled 'Appointment of a Non-Executive Director – Guernsey Electricity Limited' dated 18 February, 2021, they are of the opinion:-*

*1. To approve the appointment of Mrs Joanne Peacegood as a non-executive director of Guernsey Electricity Limited with effect from the 2021 Guernsey Electricity Annual General Meeting.*

**The States' Greffier:** Article 2, States' Trading Supervisory Board – appointment of a non-executive director – Guernsey Electricity Ltd.

1935 **The Bailiff:** And Deputy Roffey, you are the President of the Board, to open debate.

**Deputy Roffey:** I am, sir, but I have nothing to add to the policy letter.

1940 **The Bailiff:** Members of the States, can I simply put to you the Proposition to approve the appointment of Mrs Jo Peacegood as a non-executive director of Guernsey Electricity, with effect from the 2021 AGM. Those in favour; those against?

*Members voted Pour.*

1945 **The Bailiff:** I declare her appointment duly approved.

**LEGISLATION LAID BEFORE THE STATES**

**The Merchant Shipping (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2002  
(Commencement) Ordinance, 2021;  
The European Union (Patent Co-operation Treaty) (Brexit)  
(Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2020;  
The European Union (Performers' Rights) (WPPT) (Brexit)  
(Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2020;  
The European Union (Registered Designs) (Hague Agreement)  
(Brexit) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2020;  
The Trade Marks (Madrid) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2020;  
The European Union (Competition) (Brexit) (Guernsey) Regulations, 2021;  
The Electoral Roll (Public Inspection) Rules, 2021**

**The States' Greffier:** The following legislation is laid before the States: The Merchant Shipping (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2002 (Commencement) Ordinance, 2021; The European Union (Patent Co-operation Treaty) (Brexit) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2020; The European Union (Performers' Rights) (WPPT) (Brexit) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2020; The European Union (Registered Designs) (Hague Agreement) (Brexit) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2020; The Trade Marks (Madrid) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2020; The European Union (Competition) (Brexit) (Guernsey) Regulations, 2021; and The Electoral Roll (Public Inspection) Rules, 2021.

**The Bailiff:** Thank you very much and we note that all of those items of legislation have been laid before this Meeting of the States of Deliberation. I have not received any motions to annul any of them. The opportunity still arises next time. Next item of business please, Greffier.

**LEGISLATION FOR APPROVAL**

**COMMITTEE FOR HOME AFFAIRS**

**3. The Terrorism and Crime (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2002  
(Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 –  
Proposition carried**

*Article 3.*

*The States are asked to decide:-*

*Whether they are of the opinion to approve the draft Ordinance entitled "The Terrorism and Crime (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2002 (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021", and to direct that the same shall have effect as an Ordinance of the States.*

**The States' Greffier:** Article 3, Committee for Home Affairs – The Terrorism and Crime (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law 2002 (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021.

**The Bailiff:** And Deputy Prow, as the President of the Committee for Home Affairs, do you have anything to add in opening debate?

**Deputy Prow:** Thank you, sir. I can be extremely brief. I can remind the States that they approved on 4th November a policy letter entitled Amendments to the Terrorism and Crime (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2002. The Ordinance presented today to the Assembly is a result of that policy letter. The letter recommended amendments to that Law, which is the main statute in the Bailiwick related

to terrorism in respect of border controls, which the Committee *for* Home Affairs considers should be progressed as a priority for operational reasons, ahead of a wider review of the Bailiwick's terrorism legislation, which is currently being undertaken for Home Affairs by the Law Officers' Chambers.

The Ordinance seeks provisions relating to powers at the border and reflecting powers in recent UK legislation, appropriately reflected in domestic legislation, which includes new powers at the border to inspect, seize or obtain travel documents, extend existing tourism-related powers at the border including powers to stop, question and detain people to search persons, ships, aircraft and goods, to take copies of documents and to detain property, to exercise in relation to the commission, preparation or instigation of hostile acts that do not fall within the definition of terrorism being acts threatening national security, threatening the economic wellbeing of the British Islands and acts of serious crime.

It also includes some updating provisions around calculation of detention periods, some evidential provisions regarding questioning and searches, supply of information and the issue of codes of practice. Sir, I would ask that this Ordinance is approved without the need for Members to debate any further. Thank you, sir.

**The Bailiff:** Does any Member wish to debate this matter? No one is rising and therefore I will put to you the single Proposition as to whether you are minded to approve this draft Ordinance. Those in favour; those against?

*Members voted Pour.*

**The Bailiff:** I declare that Proposition duly carried.

## STATES' TRADING SUPERVISORY BOARD

### 4. The Gambling (Channel Island Lottery) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 – Proposition carried

*Article 4.*

*The States are asked to decide:-*

*Whether they are of the opinion to approve the draft Ordinance entitled "The Gambling (Channel Island Lottery) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021", and to direct that the same shall have effect as an Ordinance of the States.*

**The States' Greffier:** Article 4, States' Trading Supervisory Board – The Gambling (Channel Island Lottery) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021.

**The Bailiff:** And Deputy Roffey, as the President, is there anything you wish to say?

**Deputy Roffey:** Not really. This just changes the timetable for the Annual Report on the Channel Islands Lottery.

**The Bailiff:** I do not see any Member rising to debate this important matter and therefore I will put it to the vote. Those in favour of approving the draft Ordinance; those against?

*Members voted Pour.*

**The Bailiff:** I will declare that Proposition duly carried.

**COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**5. The Companies (Guernsey) Law, 2008  
(Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance, 2021 –  
Proposition carried as amended**

*Article 5.*

*The States are asked to decide:-*

*Whether they are of the opinion to approve the draft Ordinance entitled "The Companies (Guernsey) Law, 2008 (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance, 2021", and to direct that the same shall have effect as an Ordinance of the States.*

2005 **The States' Greffier:** Article 5, Committee for Economic Development – The Companies (Guernsey) Law, 2008 (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance, 2021.

**The Bailiff:** And I invite the President of the Committee, who is not here, so who is the Deputy President of the Committee? Deputy Falla, is there anything you want to say in opening the debate?

2010

**Deputy Falla:** Thank you, sir. In fact, Deputy Moakes is prepared to ...

**The Bailiff:** I know Deputy Moakes has got an amendment. Is he also leading on the debate?

2015

**Deputy Falla:** Okay. Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Moakes, then, please.

2020 **Deputy Moakes:** Thank you, sir. I can be very quick on this. I am delighted to present the Companies (Guernsey) Law, 2008 (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance, 2021 to the Assembly on behalf of the Committee for Economic Development. The Committee regularly liaises with local industry and interested parties to consider potential amendments to our legislative framework to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of the business community.

2025 This draft Ordinance is the product of such consultation and collaboration. The legislative amendments contained in this Ordinance are eagerly anticipated by industry. As just one example, industry is keen to be able to make use of the proposals to allow the divergence between the membership of the board of directors of an incorporated cell and that of its incorporated cell company.

2030 This will be welcomed in particular by the insurance sector and will help to ensure that Guernsey remains the jurisdiction of choice for incorporation of incorporated cell companies. Other provisions will provide certainty, clarification, and greater flexibility across a variety of areas. I ask Members to vote in favour of this Proposition to approve the draft Ordinance. Thank you.

2035 **The Bailiff:** And would you like to move the amendment to the draft Ordinance, as well, Deputy Moakes?

[Amendment](#)

*For clause 27(c) of the draft Ordinance entitled "The Companies (Guernsey) Law, 2008 (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance, 2021" (Article 3 of Billet d'État No. IX of 2021) substitute:*

*"(c) immediately after subsection (4), insert the following subsection – "(5) A member whose shares are to be acquired under this section is excluded from exercising the voting rights attaching to those shares when voting on the resolution"."*

**Deputy Moakes:** Yes, please.

**The Bailiff:** Do you want it to be read?

2040 **Deputy Moakes:** Certainly, thank you. Sir, when enacted, clause 27(c) of the Companies (Guernsey) Law, 2008 (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance, 2021, will insert a subsection (5) into section 314 of the Companies of Law. This subsection is intended to protect minority shareholders during a share buyback and to align the position of Guernsey with the equivalent procedure in the UK.

2045 The Committee consulted industry stakeholders during the drafting of the Ordinance. However, following submission of the draft Ordinance to HM Greffier, further representation from the Commercial Bar Association was received, regarding the proposed new section 314(5), which would be inserted by clause 27(c). Following further consideration of the draft Ordinance, the Commercial Bar Association expressed concern that, as drafted, the provision would have an unintended  
2050 detrimental effect on transactions involved companies undertaking off-market buybacks of shares from multiple shareholders at the same time.

Having considered the further representation from the Commercial Bar Association and advice from the Finance Sector Development Team, the Committee agrees and supports this amendment. I would therefore ask Members to vote in favour of this amendment.

2055 **The Bailiff:** Thank you very much. Deputy Inder, do you formally second the amendment?

**Deputy Inder:** I do.

2060 **The Bailiff:** Thank you very much. Is there any debate on the amendment? Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** Yes, I want to praise Deputy Inder, Deputy Falla, Deputy Moakes and the Committee for bringing this work because it is only by being fleet of foot and agile that we will remain competitive in the financial services, digital services and relevant markets. Sadly, the nuances  
2065 of Company Law are a little bit beyond my pay grade, even though I did study it in a way.

I do sit on, with Deputy Dyke who is an experienced lawyer, a legislation scrutiny panel, yes I do, and I work with Deputy Matthews, Deputy Fairclough, Deputy de Lisle and others and Deputy Dyke of course and advocates in that respect. We did look at this and it was interesting to note some of the changes, which improve, protected cell companies, protected cell entities and all these amazing  
2070 things, just to give you a flavour. Where is it now? Yes, it is quite funny really. Incorporated cell, incorporated cell companies, and all these things.

The problem is, though, we have had an amendment today, which is interesting because it has subsequently come out of a further consultation with the Commercial Bar Association, whereby we wish to not only safeguard our situation, the equivalent procedure in the UK, late in the day really,  
2075 a further representation that it would have unintended detrimental effect on transactions involving listed companies undertaking off-market buybacks of shares in multiple shareholders at the same time.

Now this is an example of course whereby Guernsey possibly also needs a more active Bar not just in the reactive sense but in the sense of a Law Commission that would work proactively with the States, Guernsey Finance and other organisations and we have considered for many years  
2080 actually, but I think Deputy de Lisle and Deputy Dyke, particularly, have raised it in this term, the need to look again at how we can strengthen legislative scrutiny.

Because of course you could argue that the legislative scrutiny process, which in other jurisdictions would be carried out by a second chamber, perhaps, or by a parliamentary council, or by a select committee framework, where we would actually need perhaps testimony from people affected by legislation to come forward with ideas as to how the legislation, perhaps in public, perhaps confidentially, how it could be improved and sustained.

For example, we are currently looking at legislation pertaining to charities and that might have impact, not only on the work of non-incorporated associations but fiduciaries, trusts and our competitive position.

So my call here is, although clearly Economic Development have ticked the boxes this time with both the right level of work and reacting to wise advice, it would be nice if, in this term we could create a more rigorous and robust structure whereby legislation on professional and technical matters does go out to a more rigorous scrutiny process as well with perhaps stakeholders, especially in the economic and commercial sector, actually directly meeting both Committee Members of the sponsoring Committee and other States' Members in the scrutiny process. I do support the legislation and the amendment.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

**Deputy Trott:** Sir, we often, in this Assembly, let matters like this go completely unchallenged and partly because we have a very light agenda and partly because I only read this amendment late in the day. I do have a couple of observations to make. Now, in a private company, there would be a shareholders' agreement, which would deal with issues such as pre-emption rights and the dragging of minority shareholders in order to ensure that the majority interests cannot be thwarted by minority interests.

Those are all understood at the time that people invest and that is how it is. We are dealing about public, in other words listed, companies here. We are talking about a somewhat murky area and that is the transactions involving listed companies undertaking off-market buybacks. Now the primary reason for listing a company in this way is to raise capital or to provide the company with a certain amount of legitimacy, or to enable those shares to be openly traded.

So it does seem to me that we are taking advice here from the Guernsey Bar and call me an old cynic but are potentially those who will gain the most from the work around amending certain things, maybe the articles and various other things. But interestingly this will be after investors have, in many cases these vehicles will be up and running already, and investors have invested in the knowledge that things will be done in a certain way.

So this is, in that regard, retrospective and in that regard, compromises potentially the interests of the majority shareholders. I was interested to hear in Deputy Moakes' remarks and also to read in the explanatory note that the views of the Guernsey Bar have been taken and the views of the division within Government that deals with financial services development, or partly deals with it, but I notice that we do not appear to have asked the view of, for instance, The International Stock Exchange here in Guernsey, where many of these listed vehicles will be found.

My question is that have we asked TISE's views and were they supportive of it as well? Because my perception is this will generate considerable work for commercial lawyers in Guernsey and therefore, whilst one must not ignore the advice that is given, one must I think draw the view that they have a vested interest in that regard, whereas one would argue that The International Stock Exchange would not. So that is my question. I am inclined to support it, sir, but I do think that challenge is appropriate bearing in mind the primary source of advice that the Committee has received.

**The Bailiff:** I do not see any other Member rising. Deputy Inder, as the President of the Committee, do you wish to comment at all, and the seconder of the amendment, on the amendment?

2135 **Deputy Inder:** Only inasmuch as without wanting to cross Deputy Moakes and possibly in  
answer to Deputy Trott, the Financial Services Department is manned by certainly one lead who I  
think, and I am fairly sure, I am quite certain the Committee has full confidence in. I do not have any  
particular recollection of the Channel Islands' Stock Exchange being consulted in this, unless Deputy  
2140 Moakes is about to counter that. That is all I have got to say on the matter and it very much came  
from the Guernsey Bar Association's advice.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Moakes, as the proposer of the amendment, to reply to that short debate  
on it, if he so wishes.

2145 **Deputy Moakes:** Absolutely, thank you very much for the question, Deputy Trott. I cannot  
specifically say whether TISE was or was not consulted on this. What I am told is that the Bar was  
obviously consulted and so was the industry. I can follow up and come back to answer that question  
specifically. I am very happy to do that but I do not want to say they were or they were not at this  
stage, because I honestly do not know the answer to the question. Thank you.

2150 **The Bailiff:** Well, Members of the States, I am going to put to you first the amendment,  
proposed by Deputy Moakes, seconded by Deputy Inder, which will substitute a different clause  
27(c) into the draft Ordinance. That clause can be found on page 21 in the document. Those in  
favour; those against?

2155 *Members voted Pour.*

**The Bailiff:** I declare the amendment duly carried. Now I think Deputy Gollop possibly spoke in  
general debate rather than just on the amendment but is there anyone who wishes to speak in  
2160 general debate in respect of this matter? No. In that case, Deputy Moakes, there is no debate to  
reply to on the general debate and I will put to you the draft Companies (Guernsey) Law, 2008  
(Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance, 2021 as just amended for your approval or not. Those in  
favour; those against?

2165 *Members voted Pour.*

**The Bailiff:** I declare that Proposition, as amended, duly carried.

## **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

### **6. Schedule for future States' Business – Proposition carried**

*Article 6.*

*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 26th May 2021 and subsequent States' Meetings, they  
are of the opinion to approve the Schedule.*

**STATES OF DELIBERATION SCHEDULE for FUTURE STATES' BUSINESS**

*(For consideration at the Ordinary Meeting of the States commencing on the 28th April 2021)*

*Items for Ordinary Meeting of the States commencing on the 26th May 2021*

*(a) communications by the Presiding Officer including in memoriam tributes;*

*(b) statements;*

(c) questions;

(d) elections and appointments;

P.2021/31 – Committee for Home Affairs – Police Complaints Commission: Re-Appointment of Member

P.2021/36 – Policy & Resources Committee – Election of Mr Julian Winser as an Ordinary Member and Future Chairman of the Guernsey Financial Services Commission

P.2021/41 – Presiding Officer – Election of Members of the Ladies' College Board of Governors

(e) motions to debate an appendix report (1st stage);

(f) articles adjourned or deferred from previous Meetings of the States;

(g) all other types of business not otherwise named;

The Financial Services Commission (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1987 (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021;

The Land Planning and Development (Emergency Procedures) Ordinance, 2021;

No. 124 of 2020 – The Social Insurance (Benefits) (Amendment) Regulations, 2020;

No. 23 of 2021 – The Social Insurance (Benefits) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021;

No. 24 of 2021 – The Social Insurance (Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021;

P.2021/37 – The Companies (Guernsey) Law, 2008 (Insolvency) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021\*;

P.2021/38 – The Road Traffic (Speed Limits and Trials) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021\*;

Amendments to the proposed meeting dates and order are permitted only for those items marked with an \*.

Ordinary Meeting of the States commencing on the 26th May 2021

(N.B. A Meeting of the States of Election will be convened for this date prior to the meeting of the States of Deliberation.)

Items for Special Meeting of the States commencing on the 16th June 2021

P.2021/xx – States' Accounts Items for Special Meeting of the States commencing on the 21st July 2021;

P.2021/xx – Government Work Plan – Stage 2

Items for Special Meeting of the States commencing on the 2nd November 2021

P.2021/xx – States' Budget

2170 **The States' Greffier:** Article 6, Policy & Resources Committee – the Schedule for Future States' Business.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache, as the President of the Committee, I have not received any amendments to it. Is there anything to say?

2175 **Deputy Ferbrache:** No, sir.

**The Bailiff:** In that case, Members, I will simply put to you for your approval or otherwise, the Schedule for Future States' Business for, in particular, the next Meeting. Those in favour; those against.

*Members voted Pour.*

2180 **The Bailiff:** I declare that Proposition duly carried and that Schedule approved. That, Members of the States, completes the business for this month's Meeting of the States of Deliberation, so I will invite the States' Greffier to close the Meeting please.

*The Assembly adjourned at 12.10 p.m.*