



Guernsey
Overseas Aid &
Development Commission

Vacancies for Three Commissioners

***Are you looking to play an active part in your community?
Do you take an active interest in third world issues and development aid?
Are you able to evaluate grant requests to make balanced and fair decisions?***

Introduction

The Overseas Aid & Development Commission (the Commission) is inviting applications for Islanders interested in serving as Commissioners. The Commission will have three vacancies from August 2022 following the end of the terms of three Commissioners.

Appointment to the Commission is made by the States of Deliberation on the recommendation of the Commission and is for a four year term (but with the possibility of serving another term). This is an unpaid role but one which is both interesting and rewarding and provides an opportunity to make decisions that will have a real and enduring impact on the lives of some of the world's poorest communities.

The Commissioners' role is to apply their experience of development aid and professional knowledge to help ensure that the annual grant the Commission receives from the States (£3.18 million for 2022) is used to support projects that will offer a sustainable improvement of the basic needs of those living in poverty in the world's least developed countries.

The Role of Commissioner

The role of Commissioner includes doing preparatory work in advance of meetings by reading the papers provided, undertaking any research they consider necessary, and taking an active part in the deliberations and decision-making. **The role is unpaid and does not involve overseas travel.**

The Commission meets regularly (typically once a month), generally on Wednesday afternoons (typically between 4.00pm and 6.00pm). These meetings include:

- Five or six funding meetings (generally held between April and July) to consider applications for charities for grant aid awards;
- Ad hoc meetings to consider requests for disaster and emergency relief awards in response to natural disasters or humanitarian crisis;
- Meetings with local organisations seeking matched funding from the Commission to support development aid projects;
- Meeting/s to review and approve the Commission's annual report

- Ad hoc meetings with representatives of development aid charities to hear about the progress of supported projects and their plans for future work.

Commissioners are required to review and evaluate applications for funding against the Commission's published funding criteria. This includes reading and assessing the applications prior to a meeting and then, during the meeting, discussing the merits of the applications with the other Commissioners and reaching agreement whether or not to support a particular request for funding. Each year the Commission receives around 200 individual applications for grant aid funding and these are considered in batches of between 50 and 60 applications per funding meeting. In addition, the Commission receives around 10 to 15 emergency and disaster relief requests, and up to 10 community partnership funding requests, and there also are a small number of meetings with charities.

The majority of the Commissioners' work is undertaken at home reading and assessing the many applications for funding, reading the project reports submitted by the charities that receive funding from the Commission and generally keeping themselves abreast of matters relating to development aid.

This is a real opportunity to contribute positively not only to our local community but also to improve the lives of some of the world's poorest communities. As well as considering applications, the Commissioners will also have the opportunity to consider and support new overseas aid initiatives. This includes providing guidance and putting forward ideas based on their own knowledge of least developed countries and development aid, as well as their professional expertise.

This is an interesting and exciting role for any local residents with an active interest in third world issues, especially development aid. The current Commissioners bring a large range of skills to the Commission's work including direct experience of working in a least developed country, professional experience in medicine, water, tertiary and health education and legal matters, active participation with an established development aid charity and expertise in project management and good governance.

The Commission would be particularly interested in applications from local residents with development aid experience in one or more the following areas:

- Medicine
- Education, especially within primary or secondary schools
- Micro-finance and community savings programmes
- Engineering, especially in relation to solar power and hydrology
- Climate change and mitigation of its impact;
- Legal matters

Life as a Commissioner

To assist you in deciding whether this may be a role for you, the current Commissioners have this to say about the Commission's work and their role:

Judy Moore (Vice President), a qualified physiotherapist and former Academic Lead for Teaching and Learning at the Institute for Health Studies, says,

"Having worked on Overseas Aid Projects in Sri Lanka and Dominica, I feel that being a Commissioner has enabled me to use my experience to guide the decisions made in relation to the distribution of Guernsey's aid budget on behalf of the Island population. When I was first interviewed for the role I suggested that 'cynicism and realism' would be valuable assets and I still feel these are still essential qualities to be able to judge one apparently worthwhile project against another. Opportunities to discuss projects with my fellow Commissioners and to meet representatives of local and national charities, combined with research into the areas we have been asked to support, have enabled me to develop my understanding of the needs and priorities of communities less fortunate than ourselves. It has been a privilege to contribute towards improving the lives of people in some of the least developed counties in the world."

Dr Nick Paluch, a retired GP, was appointed to the Commission in 2012 and has made the following reflections on his time as a Commissioner,

"For me the role of Commissioner is an immensely satisfying way to put my knowledge and experience to good use for the benefit of others. At the end of the funding round it is great to know that I have played my part in ensuring that the Overseas Aid budget has been allocated as fairly and as conscientiously as possible. It is even more rewarding to know what a huge difference the grants will make to the lives of individuals and communities all around the world."

I have also been fortunate enough to visit several Guernsey funded projects whilst travelling in Africa and SE Asia. I have done this at my own expense but it has given me a great insight into and appreciation of the work done by the Commission".

Judy Moore, a qualified physiotherapist and former Academic Lead for Teaching and Learning at the Institute for Health Studies, says,

"Having worked on Overseas Aid Projects in Sri Lanka and Dominica, I feel that being a Commissioner has enabled me to use my experience to guide the decisions made in relation to the distribution of Guernsey's aid budget on behalf of the Island population. When I was first interviewed for the role I suggested that 'cynicism and realism' would be valuable assets and I still feel these are still essential qualities to be able to judge one apparently worthwhile project against another. Opportunities to discuss projects with my fellow Commissioners and to meet representatives of local and national charities, combined with research into the areas we have been asked to support, have enabled me to develop my understanding of the needs and priorities of communities less fortunate than ourselves. It has been a privilege to contribute towards improving the lives of people in some of the least developed counties in the world."

Philip Bodman, Chief Operating Officer in a local financial services company says,

"I have had a long-standing interest in overseas aid matters, particularly having spent ten years working in the developing world before I returned to Guernsey,

I was very pleased to be invited to serve on the Overseas Aid Commission in 2012 and to help make best use of the Guernsey taxpayers' money in improving the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves. Since then I have seen what an impact our limited resources can have in transforming lives and opportunities for those with very little. Guernsey can be very proud that it looks beyond its shores and seeks to help others. It makes a tangible difference in many communities and rightly raises our profile and standing nationally and internationally. There is always more to be done but it is right that our government has decided to maintain this commitment to the wider world.

I am continually impressed by the depth of knowledge and experience of my fellow Commissioners and the passion they demonstrate to ensure that every pound makes a difference."

Bryan Pill, former Mission Aviation Fellowship pilot for many years, says,

"One of the delights of this role has been how enjoyable it has been working with such a great team, under excellent leadership. Everyone brings something different to the table, all are heard, united by a common purpose to make the most of the resources we have been given."

Further information

Interested?

Looking for more information about the Commission's work?

Further information about the Commission's work, including details of its grant aid and disaster and emergency relief policies, can be found on its website – www.gov.gg/overseasaid. The Commission's annual reports (downloadable from the Commission's website) include updates on projects the Commission has supported through its grants and statistics about the number, type and location of projects funded by the Commission.

If you have any questions or would like further information including details of the role please do not hesitate to contact David Way, the Commission's Principal Officer, (telephone 223404 or email overseasaid@gov.gg).

Applications should be made by submitting a letter of application.

Deadline for applications: 4.00pm on Friday 13th May 2022.