



II
2016

BILLET D'ÉTAT

TUESDAY, 26th JANUARY, 2016

STATES' ASSEMBLY & CONSTITUTION
COMMITTEE – GENERAL ELECTION –
ST PETER PORT NORTH POLLING STATIONS

BILLET D'ÉTAT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE STATES OF THE ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

I hereby give notice pursuant to Rule 1(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation that the item contained in this Billet d'État which has been submitted for debate will be considered at the Meeting of the States of Deliberation already convened for **TUESDAY, the 26th JANUARY, 2016.**

R. J. COLLAS
Bailiff and Presiding Officer

The Royal Court House
Guernsey

18th December 2015

STATES' ASSEMBLY & CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

GENERAL ELECTION – ST PETER PORT NORTH POLLING STATIONS

The Presiding Officer,
The States of Deliberation,
The Royal Court House,
St. Peter Port

16th December 2015

Dear Sir,

1. On the 25th June 2015 (Billet d'État XI of 2015) the States approved, with amendments, a policy letter from the Committee regarding the General Election in 2016. *Inter alia* that policy letter established new locations for the polling stations in St Saviour in the West district but all other polling stations remained in the locations used in the 2012 General Election.
2. Under the terms of Article 26(3) of the Reform (Guernsey) Law, 1948, as amended, the Constables of a parish are obliged to establish polling stations in accordance with Resolutions of the States. For many years the polling stations in St Peter Port North have been established at St John's Church Hall and Beau Séjour Leisure Centre. St John's Church Hall was not available for the recent by-election and it has now emerged that unfortunately it will not be available for the General Election on the 27th April 2016 either. The Registrar-General of Electors has investigated the matter and looked at other possible sites. He has concluded that the polling station which would have been established at St John's Church Hall should instead be established at the Princess Royal Performing Arts Centre with effect from the 2016 General Election. The Performing Arts Centre has plenty of parking and easy, level access for the less mobile. It is further from Beau Séjour which makes it more convenient for those electors who do not live near the Leisure Centre. It is suitable for use as a polling station. The Committee unanimously agrees with his suggestion and therefore recommends the States to make a new Resolution under the terms of Article 26(3) of the Reform (Guernsey) Law, 1948, as amended, to change where the St Peter Port North polling stations should be established.

CONSULTATION / RESOURCES / NEED FOR LEGISLATION

3. The Law Officers have not identified any reason in law why the proposals set out in this policy letter cannot be implemented.

4. The Committee has liaised with the Constables of St Peter Port and the Registrar-General of Electors about this matter and they are content to establish the polling stations at these two locations. The Registrar-General is satisfied that there would be no resource implications arising from having the polling station in a different location to that originally planned.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. The States' Assembly & Constitution Committee recommends the States, in accordance with Article 26(3) of the Reform (Guernsey) Law, 1948, as amended, to establish the polling stations for the St Peter Port North district at Beau Séjour Leisure Centre and the Princess Royal Performing Arts Centre.

Yours faithfully,

Deputy M J Fallaize

Chairman

The other Members of the States' Assembly & Constitution Committee are:

Deputy R Conder (Vice-Chairman)
Deputy P A Harwood

Deputy E G Bebb

Deputy A H Adam

The States are asked to decide:-

I.- Whether, after consideration of the Policy Letter dated 16th December, 2015, of the States' Assembly & Constitution Committee, they are of the opinion, in accordance with Article 26(3) of the Reform (Guernsey) Law, 1948, as amended, to establish the polling stations for the St Peter Port North district at Beau Séjour Leisure Centre and the Princess Royal Performing Arts Centre.