



OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

STATES OF THE

ISLAND OF ALDERNEY

HANSARD

Remote Meeting, Alderney, Wednesday, 10th June 2020

*All published Official Reports can be found on the
official States of Alderney website www.alderney.gov.gg*

Volume 8, No. 4

Present:

Mr William Tate, President

Members

Mr Louis Jean

Mr Steve Roberts

Mr Graham McKinley

Mr James Dent

Mr Alexander Snowdon

Mr Mike Dean

Mr Kevin Gentle

Ms Annie Burgess

Mr Christian Harris

Mr David Earl

The Greffier of the Court

Mr Jonathan Anderson

Business transacted

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States of Alderney

The States met virtually at 2.30 p.m.

[THE PRESIDENT *in the Chair*]

PRAYERS

The Greffier

ROLL CALL

The Greffier

The Greffier: Sir, all 10 Members are present.

The President: Thank you very much indeed.

Welcome to the Lieutenant Governor

The President: May I take this opportunity to welcome again to welcome again His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor Sir Ian Corder to our remote Meeting? This is his second Meeting on the bounce, so I suspect that might be something of a record, but he is very welcome.

Secondly, may I just welcome all the community who are listening on the radio to what is our second remote hearing of the States of Alderney.

Billet d'État for Wednesday, 10th June 2020

I. The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No.2) Regulations, 2020 – Proposition carried

Item I.

The States of Alderney are asked:

Not to annul The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No.2) Regulations, 2020.

10 **The President:** Everybody is present, so I think, Mr Greffier, we can move to Item I on the Billet.

The Greffier: Thank you, sir, just prior to Item I, did you want to confirm with the Convener if any comments were made on the Billet?

15 **The President:** I was going to deal with those as each Item is dealt with.

20 **The Greffier:** Thank you, sir. In which case, Item I this afternoon is The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No.2) Regulations, 2020. A letter has been received from Mr Dent in his capacity as Chairman of the Policy & Finance Committee and the States of Alderney are asked not to annul the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No. 2) Regulations of 2020.

25 **The President:** Thank you very much indeed. Now at this stage, Mr Harris, you are acting as the Convener this afternoon. Were there any matters raised in relation to Item I?

Mr Harris: Yes sir, thank you.

30 One comment was raised by a member of the public, who wished to draw attention to the extensions to the coronavirus emergency legislation. The question of whether a socially distanced People's Meeting was raised and whether a socially distanced States' Meeting could be held, including the possibility of Meetings in the open air. The case for retaining emergency powers is weakening as the threat of the virus recedes and the emergency laws undermine constitutional rights. That is it.

Thank you, sir.

35 **The President:** Thank you very much indeed, Mr Harris. Now Mr Dent, I understand you intend to propose this Item?

Mr Dent: Mr President, thank you.

40 Mr President, colleagues, yes, I would like to propose this Item and I am hoping I can do it without fuss and without repeating my May speech. These are all regulations made by the Civil Contingencies Authority. They are required to be placed before the States in order that they be not annulled. There could in fact be a similar requirement each month until the crisis is over.

45 This is because the Regulations last only 30 days. As occurred in May, you will note the extensive list of headings and the subject matters covered. Again, not something I intend to go into this afternoon. For those minded to do it, full texts are on the States of Guernsey Law Office's website. There are some 124 pages. As lockdown eases, I would hope that the need for some of the Regulations will fall away soon and that, therefore, next month there will be rather fewer pages.

50 As I noted in May it is in fact these Regulations that are, amongst other things, allowing this Meeting to take place remotely. So I would be truly grateful if you, my colleagues, did not annul them. Thank you very much.

55 **The President:** Thank you. Just for the sake of clarity, Mr Dent, I think these Regulations came into effect on 15th May, and will have to be reviewed again, I think, towards the end of this week or the beginning of next week?

Mr Dent: That is correct Mr President. The CCA has already reviewed quite a number of them and I think we are on the list of Regulations, but they will be coming before this Assembly again, next month. Thank you.

60 **The President:** Thank you very much indeed. Now Mr Snowdon, I think you are going to second this Proposition?

Mr Snowdon: I would do so. Can I reserve my right to speak please sir?

65 **The President:** Yes you may. Would any other Member wish to speak on this Item? Mr Greffier, are we using the same process as last time where you will be told on the chat?

The Greffier: That is correct sir and, at present, I have not had any indications.

70 **The President:** That being the case, it seems the floor is yours, Mr Snowdon.

Mr Snowdon: Thank you, sir. Just on the comment from the Member of the Public, we have raised, myself and Mr Dent did raise, about the People's Meeting and having the States' Meeting, hopefully, with people there rather than virtual. I believe, hopefully, in phase five, when that is introduced, fingers crossed we can go back to the new normal.
75 Thank you, sir.

The President: Thank you very much indeed. That is a matter, Mr Snowdon as well, if I just tell you again for completeness, that we are keeping under review because obviously we want to get back to what is the norm as quickly as possible.

80 So I am assuming, Mr Dent, that you do not have any further observations?

Mr Dent: Absolutely correct Mr President, thank you .

85 **The President:** Thank you very much indeed. That being the case, we can take the Proposition as passed, Mr Greffier, can we?

The Greffier: Sir, no one raising objections, if you are happy to, yes sir.

90 **The President:** Thank you very much indeed.

**II. Statutory Discount Legislation –
The Damages (Assumed Rate of Return and Related Matters)
(Enabling Provisions) (Guernsey and Alderney) Law, 2020 –
Proposition carried as amended**

Item II.

The States of Alderney are asked:

To approve "The Damages (Assumed Rate of Return and Related Matters) (Enabling Provisions) (Guernsey and Alderney) Law, 2020"

The President: Now can we move onto Item II, please?

The Greffier: Thank you, sir. Item II this afternoon is the statutory discount legislation. A letter has again been received from Mr Dent in his capacity as the Chairman of the Policy & Finance Committee and the States of Alderney are asked to approve the Damages (Assumed Rate of Return and Related Matters) (Enabling Provisions) (Guernsey and Alderney) Law, 2020.
95

The President: Thank you very much indeed. Now Mr Harris, I do not think there were any comments made on this Item. Is that correct?

100

Mr Harris: That is correct sir. No comments from members of the public.

The President: Thank you very much indeed. Now Mr Dent, I believe you have an amendment to raise?

Amendment:

To replace the motion with:

The States of Alderney approves in principle the Damages (Assumed Rate of Return and Related Matters) (Enabling Provisions) (Guernsey and Alderney) Law, 2020 and defers full debate to a later Meeting.

105

Mr Dent: Mr President, thank you.

Can I just briefly say something about the legislation first? This legislation will assist our courts when they are assessing damages. It is intended to provide some basic frameworks, which the courts can adhere to when awarding damages or seeking the recovery of costs, in particular health care costs. Provisions is made for periodic payment orders and mechanisms for accounted but expected rate of returns on the assessment of a sum awarded as damages for future pecuniary loss.

110

I do not really believe the legislation is controversial. However, I am told that the States of Guernsey have not yet deliberated on the matter and for that reason it is unwise for us today to consider it. In this matter we really need to be in step with Guernsey. For this reason, I am proposing an amendment. I would ask that we approve the legislation in principle but defer our further consideration until another day. I therefore propose the following amendment:

115

The States of Alderney approves in principle the Damages (Assumed Rate of Return and Related Matters) (Enabling Provisions) (Guernsey and Alderney) Law, 2020 and defers full debate to a later Meeting.

The President: Thank you, Mr Dent.

Mr Greffier, I am assuming you have the wording of that?

120

The Greffier: Yes sir, I do, thank you.

The President: Thank you very much indeed. Mr Earl, you intend, I think, to second this amendment?

125

Mr Earl: Yes, I am very happy to propose Mr Dent's amendment. It makes absolute sense. I have nothing else to add.

The President: Thank you very much indeed. Does any Member wish to speak in respect of the amendment only at this stage?

130

Mr Jean: May I speak sir?

The President: Yes you may, Mr Jean, of course.

135

Mr Jean: Thank you. I am concerned about this because what is worrying me about it is we are ahead of Guernsey with this and I do not know how that actually happened. I would like to know, if I could, who actually put the Item on the Billet? Because it has not come down in the usual way to be put on the Billet, which surprises me and I am concerned about it.

140 I actually think that it should be completely deferred for the time being. Because there is an interesting situation. The debate in the Guernsey States may well amend this in one form or another, or possibly even amend it two or three times, and if that happens our voting for it in principle, I am concerned about that and I think that we should not vote for this at all today.

145 I am not saying that I am enormously against it but because I do not understand where it has come from and why it has come ahead of the normal channels, I am not happy about it and I am really concerned and I think that we should not vote on it at all. Therefore I would not be in favour of the amendment or the Proposition.

The President: Thank you very much indeed, Mr Jean.

150 Does any other Member wish to make a contribution in respect of this Item, the amendment only?

The Greffier: Sir, at this stage I have had no indications from any other Member wishing to speak.

155 **The President:** Thank you very much indeed. Well Mr Dent, you have heard Mr Jean's reservations, do you wish to sum up your proposition?

160 **Mr Dent:** I would just like to say, in response to Mr Jean, that it was discussed, albeit very briefly, at the P&F meeting last. He may not remember. I understand his concerns; I do accept his concerns, but when it comes before us again, I mean it will come back in a possibly slightly different form but I think the principles behind the legislation will remain the same. I cannot see them being in any way altered.

165 If anybody is to blame it is probably myself for not actually looking very closely at what we were being asked to approve in P&F, which was basically we were being asked to comment on it and nobody had any comments.

Thank you.

170 **The President:** Very noble of you, Mr Dent. Can we move to the vote then please, Mr Greffier, in respect of the amendment?

The Greffier: Thank you, sir, for the sake of clarity, the amendment reads:

The States of Alderney approves in principle the Damages (Assumed Rate of Return and Related Matters) (Enabling Provisions) (Guernsey and Alderney) Law, 2020, and defers full debate to a later Meeting.

If Members could indicate their votes using the chat function, I would be grateful.

A vote was taken.

The Greffier: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. It is just, I believe, Mr Jean to vote.

175 **Mr Jean:** I am against it.

The Greffier: Thank you and Mr McKinley.

Mr McKinley: I am for it, but I cannot find my name on the chat list. For.

Voting resulted as follows:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
Mr Roberts	Mr Jean	None
Mr McKinley		
Mr Dent		
Mr Snowdon		
Mr Dean		
Mr Gentle		
Ms Burgess		
Mr Harris		
Mr Earl		

180

The Greffier: So that is 9 Members voting in favour and 1 against, that obviously being Mr Jean.

The President: Thank you, Mr Greffier.

185

So we will now move on to deal with the substantive Item; again, which has been duly amended. Mr Dent, again, over to you. You are the proposer for this Item.

Mr Dent: I think as it has been amended and there is nothing more I can say, it is basically that we have postponed the debate.

190

The President: Thank you. Mr Earl, I think you are going to second the Proposition now?

Mr Earl: Mr President, fellow States' Members, I am happy to second this. I have nothing to add to Mr Dent.

195

The President: Thank you very much indeed. Does anybody else wish to make a contribution to the discussion around this Item?

The Greffier: Sir, no Members have indicated their intention to speak.

200

The President: I think in those circumstances, we had better move to a vote on this one, please, Mr Greffier.

205

The Greffier: Thank you, sir. The States of Alderney approves in principle the Damages (Assumed Rate of Return and Related Matters) (Enabling Provisions) (Guernsey and Alderney) Law 2020, and defers full debate to a later Meeting. If Members again could indicate their votes?

A vote was taken.

The Greffier: Mr McKinley, would you like to make a verbal vote again?

210

Mr McKinley: I am sorry, perhaps someone could tell me how to get in and out of chat? At the moment I am on it, but I cannot see anything else. But I am for.

Mr Jean: And I am against.

215

The Greffier: Thank you, Mr Jean. I am assuming Mr Dent you are for?

Mr Dent: Yes, I have typed in 'for', I hope.

The Greffier: And I am just missing Mr Snowdon. Thank you.

Voting resulted as follows:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
Mr Roberts	Mr Jean	None
Mr McKinley		
Mr Dent		
Mr Snowdon		
Mr Dean		
Mr Gentle		
Ms Burgess		
Mr Harris		
Mr Earl		

220 **The Greffier:** Sir, 9 votes in favour: Mr Jean against, the remainder in favour.

The President: Thank you, Mr Greffier.

III. The Capacity (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020 – Proposition carried

Item III.

The States of Alderney are asked:

To approve the Projet de Loi entitled The Capacity (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020 and to authorise the Bailiff to present a most humble petition to Her Majesty praying for her Royal Sanction thereto.

The President: Now please can we move to Item III?

225 **The Greffier:** Thank you, sir. Item III today is the Capacity (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020. A letter has been received, again, from Mr Dent, in his capacity as Chairman of the Policy & Finance Committee and the States of Alderney are asked to approve the Projet de Loi, entitled The Capacity (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020, and to authorise the Bailiff to present a most humble petition to Her Majesty, praying for her Royal Sanction thereto.

230

The President: Thank you. Mr Harris, again, I understand there were no comments in respect of this Item?

235

Mr Harris: That is correct, sir, there were no comments from members of the public. Thank you.

The President: Thank you and again, Mr Dent, it falls to you to propose this Item.

240

Mr Dent: Thank you, Mr President.
The legislation introduces a new legal framework to empower individuals who lack capacity to make their own decisions. Where possible, it allows them to plan for the future and, if they lack capacity, to ensure that decisions made on their behalf respect their basic human rights and freedoms.

245

The Law is seen as an important element of a wider disability and inclusion strategy. In summary, the Law will first of all set out statutory tests to decide whether a person has the mental capacity to make a specific decision, secondly establish the best interests in principle, in

relation to decision-making on behalf of persons who have been assessed to lack capacity. Thirdly, it describes the powers of, and applications to, the Royal Court and Mental Health Incapacity Review Tribunal.

250 Fourthly it introduces, lastly, powers of attorney which permit a person to nominate one or more people to act on their behalf when that person has lost capacity in relation to property and financial affairs and/or health and welfare matters. It also introduces advance planning to include advance decisions to refuse treatment and advance care plans.

255 It introduces independent capacity representatives to provide advocacy support for those who lack capacity and who have families or friends who can provide support and it introduces a protective authorisation scheme, to authorise the accommodation of people who lack capacity in appropriate care settings and in compliance with Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights. This includes the introduction of the role of capacity professional to oversee the authorisation process.

260 Mr President, colleagues, I have for some time been advocating and supporting this legislation and I hope to be amongst the first to take advantage of the power of attorney provisions, I have first-hand experience of the advantage of such in the UK.

Thank you.

265 **The President:** Thank you, Mr Dent. Mr McKinley, I understand you are going to second this Item.

Mr McKinley: I am sir and I reserve my right to speak if I may?

270 **The President:** Yes you may. Does any other Member wish to speak on this Item?

The Greffier: As it stands, sir, no Members have indicated their willingness to speak.

The President: There you are, Mr McKinley, it is back to you.

275 **Mr McKinley:** I would just say, sir, that I would support this change to the Law enormously. It is of great benefit to the incapacitated. I am very much for it.

The President: Thank you very much indeed. Again, Mr Greffier, I suppose I should ask
280 Mr Dent formally, do you have anything else to say, Mr Dent?

Mr Dent: I think it is unnecessary in the circumstances.

The President: Thank you very much indeed. In those circumstances, Mr Greffier, can we
285 take that Proposition as passed?

The Greffier: Noted sir.

IV. The Marriage (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020 – Proposition carried

Item IV.

The States of Alderney are asked:

To approve the Projet de Loi entitled Marriage (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020 and to authorise the Bailiff to present a most humble petition to Her Majesty praying for her Royal Sanction thereto.

The President: And now we move to Item IV.

290 **The Greffier:** Item IV is the Marriage (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020. Again, a letter has
been received from Mr Dent, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Policy & Finance Committee
and the States of Alderney are asked to approve the Projet de Loi entitled Marriage (Bailiwick of
Guernsey) Law, 2020, and to authorise the Bailiff and to authorise the Bailiff to present a most
humble petition to Her Majesty, praying for her Royal Sanction thereto.

295 **The President:** Thank you very much indeed. Again, no comments on this particular Item,
Mr Harris?

Mr Harris: That is correct, sir. No comments from members of the public.

300 **The President:** Thank you very much indeed. It is back to you, Mr Dent.

Mr Dent: Thank you. Mr President, this legislation ties a number of matters regarding
marriage; for example clarifies, liberalises and simplifies a number of the processes surrounding
giving notice of marriage. It allows marriage ceremonies to take place in a wider range of
305 locations. It allows privacy during the ceremony, should couples wish it.

It allows civil ceremonies to include an element of religious content. It extends to a wider
range of persons the ability to be the celebrant. It clarifies the point at which a marriage
becomes legally binding and it brings our legislation into line with the European Convention on
Human Rights. With that, I commend the legislation to the Chamber.

310 Thank you.

The President: Thank you Mr Dent. And again, Mr McKinley, you are seconding this
Proposition?

315 **Mr McKinley:** Yes I will not reserve my right to speak on this occasion, I think it is quite clear,
quite obvious, and that we should accept it.

The President: Thank you very much indeed. Does anybody else want to make a contribution
320 in respect of this Item?

The Greffier: Sir, again no Members have indicated a desire to speak.

The President: Thank you. Well that one passes as well, then.

V. Audited Accounts 2019 – Proposition carried

Item V.

The States of Alderney are asked to approve:

(a) The States of Alderney 2019 Accounts; and

(b) The States of Alderney Water Board 2019 Financial Statements

325 **The President:** Item V, please, Mr Greffier.

The Greffier: Thank you, sir. Item V is the audited accounts of 2019. A letter has been
received, again, from Mr Dent, as Chairman of the Policy & Finance Committee, and the States

330 of Alderney are asked to approve firstly the States of Alderney 2019 Accounts and, secondly, the States of Alderney Water Board 2019 Financial Statements.

The President: Thank you very much indeed. I think in respect of this Item, Mr Harris, there were some comments from members of the public.

335 **Mr Harris:** Correct sir. There was one comment from a member of the public, which argued that the accounts should not be approved, because the 2019 accounts do not, in their opinion, show a true reflection of the commemorative coin situation. They called for an independent audit of the accounts. Thank you.

340 **The President:** Thank you Mr Harris. Well, once again Mr Dent, the floor is yours.

Mr Dent: Thank you Mr President. Colleagues, Mr President, 2019 was a satisfactory year. As in 2018, we were able to record a modest surplus, of £48,500 on our revenue account. Balancing our books is always good and, from this current year, it will be particularly useful for the first time, instead of having to return unspent balances to Guernsey, we will be allowed to return it as an initial reserve, prior to the introduction of the Alderney Property Tax.

345 Although I have reported good news in this area, this element of our accounts does, however, remain under pressure. In 2019. The cash allocation from Guernsey, £1.88 million, was almost identical to the £1.89 million received in 2018. In real terms, and consistent with Guernsey budget pressures, and with inflation at 2.4%, it has therefore fallen. This meant that, as was the case in 2018, there were expenditures we could not have funded as generously as we might have wanted.

350 Grants to outside organisations were one area where increases were usually not possible. It is noteworthy that our grant expenditures fell to £62,000 from £84,000 in 2018. In 2019, and in the spirit of prudent financial management, our grant awards were expected to meet strict criteria. As before, projects likely to result in long-term economic benefits, and those projects with very laudable and desirable social impacts, continued to compete for funds. Projects likely to bring economic benefit were understandably given priority.

355 Overall, revenue account expenditure in 2019, at £3.14 million, was still a little higher than the £3.09 million in 2018. Our capital reserves are facing fundamental challenges. The most important feature to note is the variability over recent years in the income that goes to fund capital expenditure.

360 In 2019 the most notable feature was of course the much-reduced surplus received from the AGCC. In 2019, it was £1.4 million down, from £2.6 million in 2018. If the projects we had in the pipeline for 2019, which had been budgeted for, had been realised, we would have seen our capital reserves fall by £1.51 million. As it is, two major projects were delayed and we instead reported a surplus of £0.19 million.

365 So although our capital reserves may appear healthy, this is only because of the challenges we have faced in progressing much-needed investment and of course the underlying uncertainties in income continue to cause us concern.

370 Last year I reported the gambling industry and Alderney's own regulatory business were both coming under pressure from external sources. This year I must report this pressure to be continuing, not least because of consolidations in the gambling industry that are reducing the number of candidate operators and uncertainty over Brexit.

375 Having said this, and if Alderney is careful, it may well be that we can capitalise on these shifting forces. The high regulatory standards that Alderney has achieved should stand us in good stead with those operators wishing to protect their hard-won reputations and to be seen as responsible. The future impact of variations from the AGCC receipts on our spending plans clearly must continue to be monitored.

380 Last year and the year before, I also reported on a difficult issue we were facing trying to
ensure that the capital programme did not slip. Project management capacity to deliver an
ambitious capital programme is an inherent risk. But having said this, two high-cost and
important projects – phase two of the Connaught Care Home extension and the purchase of a
385 new harbour crane – which when I reported last year were both anticipated to be now under
way, have at least been approved.

Purchase of the crane was delayed as the competitive process and the evaluation took longer
than anticipated and work on the Connaught Care Home was initially delayed because of project
finalisation issues. Usefully, the crane has now been ordered and although a contract has now
been left for the care home extension, work has yet to commence.

390 The lockdown arising from the Covid-19 pandemic is one again holding up work. Hopefully,
the care home project should soon restart. If so, the expenditure plans for 2019 will feature in
next year's accounts. Last year and the year before, recognising the difficulties we were facing,
we made budgetary provision for additional staff. We had hoped that in 2019 we would
therefore be able to reverse the slippages in a range of project initiatives. Unfortunately, despite
395 the Policy & Finance Committee approving new positions, in particular the replacement for the
States' technical services officer, who left Alderney mid-year, staffing problems continue.

Matching our workforce and additional capacity with our capital project implementation
programme would clearly be key to overcoming these ever-continuing slippages.

400 Our Economic Development Fund began the year with a surplus and, even though
expenditure exceed income, finished also with a surplus, albeit smaller. These surpluses at the
beginning and end of the year are the accounting outcomes of those earlier referenced
difficulties that we had with spending.

I am pleased to report our top priorities last year were once again transport, with our funding
of the *Little Ferry* the most significant item. Also digital connectivity and Island Pride. A lengthy
405 discourse on the situation at the end of 2019 does now seem a little inappropriate. The Covid-19
crisis has of course thrown all of the plans we were making in 2019 into disarray. It would
therefore be foolish of me to suggest that the next few years will be easy.

Our fiscal union with Guernsey is now more valuable and more important than ever and we
are fortunate in being able to access the current Bailiwick help and support funds for supporting
410 our businesses during this first lockdown phase of the crisis. Our major challenge for this year
will be a credible recovery plan. If this means closer ties with Guernsey, so be it.

Guernsey have made plans for major borrowing and have indicated that austerity should not
be a feature of their recovery plan. We need to run closely with Guernsey, make sure we can
access the funds we need for any capital investment the recovery will require and invest for the
415 future of our Island.

The discussions on the review of the 1948 Agreement are, of course, now on hold, as are
discussions in regard to any public service obligation contracts for our air services. Next year,
with the final moves towards a single Property Tax complete, the Island will have the ability to
set property taxes in a manner that reflects the best needs of our economy. It will also have the
420 ability to vary the charge categories and retain other duties. These should be both useful tools
for managing our economy.

We need, however, to be clear. Any adjustments we make in these areas may be insufficient
to bring us safely through the looming recession. Much will of course depend on the depth and
length of that recession. Having said this, our most recent revisit to our Budget for 2020 suggests
425 that the impact can be managed at least during this and the coming year.

Finally, and as always, thank you to all our Treasury staff. We are now being supported even
more than anyone could previously have anticipated, as necessary. Thank you very much.

The President: Thank you Mr Dent. I am sure we all share your final sentiments.

430 Mr Earl, I understand you are seconding the Proposition and are, coincidentally, the Chair of
the Finance Committee?

Mr Earl: That is correct Mr President, fellow States' Members. In view of Mr Dent's comprehensive and extensive report I have nothing to add. I am happy to second it but reserve the right to speak at a later point in the debate.

435

The President: Thank you very much indeed, Mr Earl. Now, any Member wish to contribute to this debate?

Mr McKinley: Yes please sir, Mr McKinley.

440

The President: Please carry on.

Mr McKinley: Thank you, sir. Just a couple of questions for Mr Dent. The Guernsey £500 million that they have asked for, I think they are receiving, are we likely to benefit in any way from that? I am talking specifically about one case, the marina option, but any other important options as well.

445

The other question is to do with the replacement of the TSO, Mr Aaron Bray I assume. I do not know how far we have gone on that and it is not for him to reply but just to remark basically that we should be looking now for a replacement. It is quite some time, six months, since Mr Bray left. Mr Phelan is doing an excellent job but I believe we need a permanent TSO.

450

The other question is to do with Mr Nash's letter. I am interested to hear we could be added about half a million if we take Mr Nash's letter, and what his comments would be on that. Thank you, sir.

455

The President: Thank you, Mr McKinley.
Mr Greffier, do you have any other contributions?

The Greffier: Not at this time, no sir. Mr Dean has just indicated he would like to speak.

460

The President: Mr Dean.

Mr Dean: Thank you, sir.

Your Excellency, Mr President, fellow States' Members, I would just like to add sentiment to Mr Dent's comments, the excellent job the Treasury team have been doing and I find myself repeating one of the comments from last year, that we still have an acting head of finance. This cannot continue and this needs to be sorted out. Nothing further to add sir.

465

The President: Thank you very much indeed. If nobody has indicated I think –

470

The Greffier: Sir, Mr Snowdon would like to speak as well.

The President: Mr Snowdon, please.

Mr Snowdon: Thank you, sir, fellow colleagues.

475

Just going through the 2019 Budget I would just like really some clarification of the Budget, because there does seem quite a lot of money going out and, as we know, with the gambling there is limited coming in and that is probably going to, unfortunately continue.

480

So you have got the Old Connaught repairs, £99,000. I might have missed it in the documentation but what is the actual plan with the Old Connaught? Are you just make it wind-and water-tight? What is that £99,000, what is the end game? What is the strategy for that building? The Island Hall kitchen, £47,000. That was a lot higher than I thought it was originally. Was that a Committee decision or not? I do not know if you can answer that question.

Mr McKinley touched on the coins and stamps. I do not know if we have actually come to the time when we do need to actually have some sort of review, make sure that we are getting value for money. I do appreciate they are getting income from it, but we have got local app experts who do keep raising concerns and I am concerned that the concerns that members of the public keep raising on this and I do wonder if we actually are getting the amount of money that we can actually reasonably get. I do not know if the Finance Committee has looked into that in a bit more detail or not.

It looks like there were some funds on Fort Tourgis. I presume that has now stopped, but I just want a bit more clarification on that. Of course the ABO is doing a wonderful job and a real credit to the States of Alderney as well as the Wildlife Trust and lots of other stakeholders, but I would just like to add, I am not involved with helping the tourism sector at the moment but I think it is really important that if we are propping up some parts of the accommodation sector, it needs to be a plain, level field for everyone. So I would like to really see some more support existing accommodation provided that that is what we are doing now. Especially in the current circumstances that we find ourselves in this year.

Regarding the gambling fund, it is concerning that the funds are dropping down because, if we take those funds away, how is the States of Alderney really getting large amounts of income? I do not really think we are apart from a few areas, like occupiers' rates and a few bits and other pieces. I think we really need to contemplate, as a States, more than ever coming together and making sure that we can look at new income streams.

I do not think it is acceptable to keep basically turning around and saying, 'Okay we need to raise a bit more money, let us put it on the occupiers' rates.' Or now, with the new TRP coming back to the States of Alderney, let us just increase those different areas. That is not acceptable. As a States of Alderney we need to look at areas where we can generate some money, whether it be regulating something or looking at other income streams. I think that is absolutely vitally important as we move forward, that we need to look at how we can make some large amounts of capital and, unfortunately, at P&F I do not think there is enough coming on the table where actually we are looking at new ideas to see where those revenue streams could come in. So I just wanted to highlight that.

Also, I think we need to look at how we can help the economy more. I know the report touches on it towards the end, but I think we need to do, with Covid-19, how we can actually help the economy and businesses more.

Just touching on Mr Dent's comments, which I will probably clarify a little bit later on when we give the States of Guernsey update, to my knowledge the PSO has not stopped. I believe that is an ongoing process with Deputy Peter Ferbrache basically hoping there is going to be a conclusion to that process sometime soon. Personally, I think it is a process that times have changes from when it was started and I think it is not the right matter to go down the line at the moment.

So I would actually say I would like to see that process ended, but I would say I do not think it is on hold and I do not think, unless Mr Dent can clarify, I do not think the 1948 Agreements are on hold. All it is, is that Covid-19 has overshadowed things at the moment but those pieces of work are still ongoing. I do not think we received anything from Policy & Finance saying they are actually on hold but I am happy for Mr Dent, please correct me if I am wrong. Those are the points I would like to make at the moment, sir. I will pass it back to you.

Thank you.

The President: Thank you very much indeed Mr Snowdon. Do you have anybody else, Mr Greffier?

The Greffier: Sir, I think Mr Jean wanted to speak as well.

The President: Mr Jean, please.

535 **Mr Jean:** Can you hear me?

The President: Yes we can.

540 **Mr Jean:** Your Excellency, sir and fellow Members, I would like to make the point as well that I think it is time we looked seriously at the coin situation. For quite some time now, this member of the public who has considerable expertise, has been raising this, and I am pleased to see other Members now looking with curiosity as well.

545 We should be curious. If we are missing out on income, we have a duty to try to get to that, particularly in these troubled times. I want to express my gratitude to the Treasury Department here and in Guernsey, especially during the current situation, where we have been able to access support for business and the like, which I think has been probably, I would say without doubt, crucial to those businesses and I am very grateful that we are included and it shows that the side of our relationship with Guernsey, which is very strong and much-needed here in Alderney.

550 During the lockdown, there are things that come to my mind and one of them is, as we move through it, the recovery process itself, I am interested in seeing more work done down at the harbour towards getting a ferry. I think it is very important and particularly as we are talking now about tourism and tourism in our own backyards; in other words what is being called 'staycation'.

555 Alderney does have the chance to access a population of 63,000 and Alderney can go on holiday with that population of 63,000. Deals are being offered in Guernsey and we must do all that we can to compete and to advertise and why I am saying this is because, as part of our budget recovery and our income recovery, those are very important incremental steps, first steps to take in recovering. They are extremely important. That is all I would like to say at present.

560 Thank you very much, sir. Thank you, Your Excellency.

The President: Thank you, Mr Jean. Do we have anybody else who wishes to speak, Mr Greffier?

565 **The Greffier:** Yes sir. Mr Roberts.

The President: Mr Roberts.

570 **Mr Roberts:** Your Excellency, Mr President, I support this. However, the breakdown in administration costs and the Civil Service costs are not really filled with clarity and I believe that the public should have these figures in their domain and made clearer. I support the coin initiative and I have done for some time. I think we really should look at it. If there is money to be made from that, and we have got to look at a lot of ways of making money, we should really listen to what this gentleman says. He seems to know what he is talking about.

575 I was very concerned about the costs of the Island Hall kitchen and I have been for a long time and I could not actually believe that the cost of it actually fell upon us. We have got to source new income streams and we have to work hard to do that but, overall, I do support this. Thank you.

580 **The President:** Thank you, Mr Roberts. Anybody else, Mr Greffier?

The Greffier: No sir, no further Members have indicated a desire to speak.

585 **The President:** I think Mr Earl, you reserved your right to speak?

Mr Earl: I did indeed Mr President, Your Excellency, fellow States' Members. I am getting really tired of Mr Nash and his accusations. The Chief Executive, the acting head of finance and I have bent over backwards over the last 15 months to help him and to provide him with information, but he is like a dog with a bone and he does not give up.

The reality of the situation, that the States of Alderney signed a contract with Commonwealth Mint, two years ago, before I joined the States, and we have a contractual agreement with the Commonwealth Mint, which goes on for another two years. That is the point at which we start looking at whether we are getting a good deal. But I would point out that the deal we get from Commonwealth Mint is actually considerably more lucrative than the one we were getting from the Royal Mint.

Before I leave, I would like, as with Mr Dent, thank Liz Maurice, Elanja and the whole of the Treasury team for the remarkable job that they do every year.

Thank you, sir.

The President: Thank you, Mr Earl.

Well, unless there is anybody else who wishes to speak, Mr Greffier, I shall pass back to Mr Dent to see whether he wishes to sum-up the Proposition.

The Greffier: Thank you, sir. No one has made an indication at the moment.

The President: Then Mr Dent.

Mr Dent: Mr President, yes. I would just like to respond to a few of those points. Starting with Mr McKinley. The £500 million, which I think is actually £650 million, in fact the money will be borrowed, I think, for the benefit of the whole Bailiwick, so yes we should be getting access to our share of that money.

The technical services officer I think yes, he is absolutely right. In regard to Mr Nash's letter, obviously Mr Earl has made some comments. I would just like to add that I think some of Mr Nash's computations are based on the expectation that every single coin is sold, that goes on the market, and he derives his calculations of potential income by multiplying the number of coins that are available, with the value of those coins. I think the truth probably is that not all coins are actually ever sold. But I go back to the point that we have a contract and that contract has some time to run.

As regards to the points made by Mr Snowdon, Mr Jean and Mr Roberts, I think by and large they ran through all the activities of the States in some respects. Most of the points I note. I think many of these points are much better brought up in the Committees, which are responsible for the items that they mentioned. We are tonight talking about the accounts, we are not talking about policy in regard to how we actually spend. This is a different matter. But I do note all their points, I think they made some valuable points in general and thank you very much.

The President: Thank you, Mr Dent.

I think this matter, Mr Greffier, we will have a vote on, please.

The Greffier: Thank you, sir. The States of Alderney are asked to approve that the States of Alderney 2019 accounts and the States of Alderney Water Board 2019 Financial Statements. Again, if Members could indicate using the chat function and, in the meantime, Mr McKinley?

Mr McKinley: Sorry, what is that?

The Greffier: Are you in a position to vote, Mr McKinley?

Mr McKinley: Yes, sorry. I was reading something else. For.

640

The Greffier: Thank you. And Mr Jean?

Mr Jean: For.

645

The Greffier: Thank you.

A vote was taken and the results were as follows:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
Mr Jean	None	None
Mr Roberts		
Mr McKinley		
Mr Dent		
Mr Snowdon		
Mr Dean		
Mr Gentle		
Ms Burgess		
Mr Harris		
Mr Earl		

The Greffier: Sir, that is all 10 Members in favour.

650

The President: Excellent. May I also add my thanks to the Treasury team, who do sterling work, keeping our ship afloat.

VI. Ambulance Service – Propositions carried

Item VI.

The States of Alderney are asked:

- 1) To approve the implementation of option three to create a combined Ambulance and Fire Service; and*
- 2) To request the preparation of options to move away from a subscription service in the 2021 Budget.*

The President: Can we now move, Mr Greffier please, to Item VI.

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The Greffier: Thank you, sir. Item VI this afternoon is the Ambulance Service. A letter has been received from Mr James Dent in his capacity as Chairman of the Policy & Finance Committee and the States of Alderney, bear with me while I get to the resolution, are asked firstly to approve the implementation of option three, to create a combined Ambulance and Fire Service and secondly to request the preparation of options to move away from a subscription service in the 2021 Budget.

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The President: Thank you very much indeed.

Mr Harris, I believe you have a summary of comments that were made in respect of this Item.

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Mr Harris: Yes indeed, sir. Of the eight members of the public commenting about the ambulance service Item, seven were supportive of the proposals for option three, recommended to the States. One person said they support the proposal for a joint Fire and Ambulance Service

and the proposal to fund the service from taxation rather than subscriptions, another drew attention to the compliments and commendations of staff and service users at the Connaught Care Home about the current Ambulance Service, who they described as efficient, effective and professional in providing person-centred care. The leadership of the current service is also praised.

Another supporter of the proposals for the service commented that, having seen how hard they have worked over the last six months, the Island is lucky to have them. One member of the public said that both he and his wife had called on the Ambulance Service and they had received prompt and efficient care with good humour. They praised the service and hoped it would continue.

Another member of the public set out the excellent care her husband had received from the Ambulance Service in being transported to the Mignot Memorial Hospital and then for a medevac, and expressed their gratitude and support for the Ambulance Service, who showed extraordinary competence and kindness on three occasions.

A member of the public commented on the good reports they had heard and that the States should take full responsibility and run the service as recommended in option three of the Billet. A member of the public supported option three and expressed support for the necessary work to address the financial and legal requirements to complete a transfer from the old Alderney Ambulance Service.

One member of the public expressed concerns about the transfer of assets from Alderney Ambulance Service Ltd, to the States, because they believed the assets must go to a charitable cause. They expressed concerns about comparisons made in the report, because non-emergency patient transport is not a feature of all options. They made reference to proposals of the former chief ambulance officer. And that is it.

Thank you, sir.

The President: Thank you very much indeed, Mr Harris.

Mr Dent, I understand you are going to propose this Item?

Mr Dent: Mr President, thank you.

I would like to start with a short summary of where we stand. In December, following a review of the service by strategic adviser Richard Webber, the board of the Alderney Ambulance Service handed the service over to the States and Richard Webber had identified a series of urgent actions required to bring the service up to a safe, sustainable standard, and an internal dispute between board and its crew had begun.

I need here to emphasise the fact that, until the service was handed over, the States of Alderney were not running the service. On 11th December, and consequent to the handover, the Policy & Finance Committee met for an emergency meeting. They resolved unanimously to ensure that there were short-term and that there could be long-term arrangements in place for a safe ambulance service.

I am sure you also remember these short-term arrangements continued over the Christmas and new year period, and indeed have been continuing ever since. For the last six months, the service has operated under the leadership of the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, with initially 14 volunteers who were trained to enable the service to operate.

Early in January, P&F had their first opportunity to review the situation. They were able to question Richard Webber and they were able to look at how the service had been coping. In summary, and if I may I will simply remind you of the very positive views at that time of our professional partners in health delivery. They noted there, that is to say the service operated under the leadership of the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, their attitude to their patients had been nothing short of exemplary, they are efficient, kind and compassionate with their patients.

In February, P&F considered six models for a reconstituted Ambulance Service and requested the CEO to prepare detailed business cases for three of them. The three selected for more

720 detailed examination were, option one: replace the Alderney Ambulance Service with a new
company but keep the same volunteer and subscription model; option two: an Ambulance
Service provided by the States of Alderney; and, option three: a service provided by the States of
Alderney, which combined aspects of the Fire and Ambulance Service.

725 The detailed business cases for these three options were presented to P&F some two weeks
ago. The prime concern for P&F was to have, going forward, a safe, 24-hour, seven days a week
service. The pros and cons of each option are set out in the Billet and therefore to go through
them in detail tonight is, I hope, unnecessary.

730 I think it is suffice to say, in regards to our prime concern, that none of us here this afternoon
really have the necessary expertise in ambulance and transfer service to make a definitive
judgement and therefore the views of those that do, the medical professions and the IMC and in
the hospital, are of paramount importance.

I should consequently like to refer to a number of matters that were considered important by
our medical professionals. These were:

735 (1) The economies of scale that option three presents. With this option there was the
opportunity for delivering a more resilient level of service;

(2) The economies of scope that option three possessed. With this option, staff with a greater
range of skills and demonstrable qualifications would be able to deliver a wider scope of
emergency service response;

740 (3) The opportunities from restructuring that are inherent with option three. With this option
there would be an opportunity to rationalise the existing managerial command support and
resource requirements;

(4) The advantages of inter-operability that option three provides. Staff working together on
a daily basis would be better able to establish close working relationships and joint operational
procedures;

745 (5) Improved communications. Option three was favoured by the Joint Emergency Services
Control Centre in Guernsey. If the centre manages all three of the emergency services, a
combined service would clearly be particularly useful to them should there be a major
emergency.

750 (6) Improvements to operational effectiveness. The current Covid-19 pandemic is particularly
illustrative of this. Our Ambulance Service, together with the Fire and Rescue Service, have
recently been at the forefront of strategy planning and have already had to work closely
together. With the increasing threat of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents,
joint responses are going to become increasingly important. A separate company or a charity
running a part of the service would find it difficult to provide the rapid responses necessary.
They would also be sourcing expertise separately.

755 (7) Clinical governance benefits from option three. It is now incumbent on all public-facing
organisations to accept professional governance and data protection regulation. There is also a
need for them to be able to ensure the effective exchange of data, knowledge and expertise,
and to be demonstrably focussing on service quality and continuous and sustainable
improvements in the quality of service provided. Doing this through a small, independent
charitable-based organisation will not be easy.

760 Now there is one matter that I do feel confident to speak on myself and that is cost-
effectiveness. Experience of other jurisdictions, an integrated fire and rescue service, is reported
to bring a major cost benefit. There are, I believe, well-documented examples in Ireland and the
UK Overseas Territories of Gibraltar, British Virgin Islands and Bermuda; also in Hong Kong and
France, Holland, Belgium, Denmark and Germany have all implemented some degree of
integration.

770 A report in 2015 in fact recommended greater integration for Guernsey, largely for the
reasons I have outlined. At this juncture I would like to add something that has been brought to
my attention in the last few days. If a private company runs the ambulance service, they would
have to pay approximately £30,000-£40,000 initially, just to get their policies and procedures

written, under Bailiwick Law. The IMC had to do this and in fact it cost them even more. These extra sums are not in the Billet items, they are extra/over.

If the integrated ambulance service is States' run, governance and regulation can be achieved under the auspices of the Health Care Professional Council, as this body recognises all
775 ambulance qualifications, such as paramedics and emergency medical technicians.

Finally, both options two and three provide an opportunity for the States to consider a move to fund the service through tax receipts, an inherently more efficient way of dealing with the service, if only because much of the present administrative costs seem to be spent on chasing debtors, including visitors to the Island.

780 Ending subscriptions would also make the service more inclusive and available for all Island residents. It has become evident that those least able to afford the subscription are least likely to subscribe and these are amongst some of our most vulnerable residents. Both options two and three would also provide the States the opportunity to waive fees for a voluntary body who rents. Option three, because the administration would be shared with the fire service, it is
785 cheaper than option two. I would consequently commend both elements of the Proposition to the Chamber. Thank you.

The President: Thank you, Mr Dent.

Ms Burgess, you are going to second this Item, I understand?

790

Ms Burgess: Yes thank you.

So thank you, Your Excellency, Mr President, fellow States' Members. As has been said, in December the Board of the Ambulance Service Limited informed the States of Alderney that they were unable to provide the Island with an operational service. This meant that the States of
795 Alderney had to step in at short notice to ensure there was a continued service, which was fit for purpose and able to meet the needs of the Island.

We now need a long-term solution. In May's Policy & Finance Committee meeting, we looked at the three options, as summarised by Mr Dent. Option three was voted for. This suggests we move to develop a more integrated States of Alderney-run emergency service, combining the
800 current interim Ambulance Service and Fire and Rescue Service. We have received communication and support for option three from the Island Medical Centre. Dr Sally Simmons pointed out examples as to why it was favoured, such as it was felt that option three was the most efficient service, giving a more resilient level of emergency response cover.

Receiving this communication from a clinical perspective and hearing that all the Island
805 doctors were strongly supportive of it has strongly influenced my decision-making. It is important to have this endorsement from the medical professions on the Island.

We have been told that the temporary service is working and supported well. So far, 17 volunteers have come forward, both old and new. In an Island of the size of Alderney, it makes sense to integrate our services, especially as it does not compromise on safety or efficiency. The
810 firefighters, already multi-functional as they are trained and equipped to respond to a range of emergencies due to our Island being isolated, so all staff members are multi-skilled.

It has been said that the combining of the services would make governance clearer, easier to implement and more transparent and I agree with that. In this model we can see there will be a manager, deputy, six volunteers from both services, with four from the fire-only and four from
815 the ambulance-only. This makes for a very efficient and safe number of volunteers with continuous ongoing training.

All this makes me happy to support option three, by looking at the standard and safety of the service as it does not compromise. I also noted the recommendation from Mr Stephen Taylor, the States of Alderney's strategic financial adviser, indicating that the report in option three
820 showed to be efficient and cost-effective.

I support the moving away from the subscription model, with the introduction of a single property tax. This will mean the cost of adding the Ambulance Service to the budget would

825 equate to about £50 per annum, from an average domestic property of 300 TRP units. It is more cost-effective to end the subscription fees, as it will make it more inclusive and available to all residents. The subscription method had not been covering all the running costs. An example of why I had difficulty supporting this subscription model is, if somebody is taken ill and needs to call out an ambulance, but has actually forgotten to renew their subscription, they are met with a bill of £250 per call out. If they need to take the ambulance to the airport or to be collected, it really quickly adds up.

830 This, then, can mean added pressure when something already has occurred, what may be the start of difficult times financially as well as medically. If it is added to the household's annual bill, this is taken out of the equation, as all will be covered. If we look at the subscription rate, at £40 for a single householder, £75 for a couple and £95 for family, the annual household extra cost of £50 shows again the cost-effective and takes out the work of chasing bill collections and doing subscription drives.

835 As I have stated already, and it is really important in my consideration, that this is inclusive of everyone and works out favourably in comparison to the cost of subscriptions.

840 I also believe changes like making arrangements for basic patient transfer, where there are no medical concerns or needs for specific equipment, can be met by other licensed vehicles and is a good thing. This means the ambulance availability is freed up. So, in my summary, I want to say that I am happy to support option three. I think this is resilience in a combined emergency service, as especially I see no compromise on safety, professionalism or efficiency of service. I thank all those who have supported the ambulance in previous years and those who are doing so now.

845 Thank you.

The President: Thank you very much indeed, Ms Burgess. Would any Member like to a contribution to this debate?

850 **Mr Jean:** Please if I may sir.

The President: Yes, well you can start us off, Mr Jean, please. Carry on.

Mr Jean: Thank you very much.

855 I have a number of concerns about the submission to the States for decision on June 10th. I am already aware that I will be voting against the motion because of the areas of concern I have. One, the report on which James Dent's letter is based does not compare like with like to the three options. Two, some of the statements used against option one and in favour of a States-run operation appear biased. Three, the report on which the letter is based makes no reference to alternative proposals, which have been put forward by the former chief ambulance officer, with the support of Dr Aaron Pennell, medical director of the Emergency Doctors' Medical Services Ltd, in the UK, and a trustee and a former director of the Alderney Ambulance Service Ltd.

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865 Four, the letter admits that a mechanism for transferring the assets of the former AAS to the new operator is yet to be determined and will require legal advice. I believe that the transfer is not possible, owing to the constraints in the memorandum and the articles of association of the Alderney Ambulance Service Ltd. Therefore we should not be committing to an option to move to a States-run service until that major issue has been sorted out, if indeed it can.

870 I will deal with this issue first, as it is fundamental to the project. Release of the assets, both the hardware including the vehicles, and the reserves of the Alderney Ambulance Service Limited have a substantial value. Paragraph nine of the memorandum of association and articles of association –

The Greffier: Sorry to interrupt you, Mr Jean.

875 Mr President, Mr Dent has raised a point of order.

Mr Dent: Mr President, Mr Jean was commenting on the articles of association. It is obviously for the directors of the Alderney Ambulance Service to take advice on how to wind-up the company. While the Alderney Ambulance Service is a limited company with charitable statues, its articles of association provide for the organisation, when wound up, to make gifts of the assets to any organisation, conducive with the primary objects of the company. Nowhere does it say that these need to be another charity. They also require the Alderney Ambulance Service Ltd to co-operate with any Bailiwick authority to provide for their objectives. Thank you. I just wanted to make that clear.

885

Mr Jean: Thank you. May I continue? Can you hear me? Mr President, may I continue? Can you hear me?

The Greffier: I can hear you, Louis.

890

Mr Jean: Thank you. I am grateful for somebody replying. Can I continue?

The President: My connection has just gone down. Has everybody else heard what Mr Jean has been saying?

895

Ms Burgess: Yes thank you. That is Annie.

Several Members: Yes.

The President: Thank you. It seems to be a problem my end, then Mr Greffier. So please carry on Mr Jean.

Mr Jean: Thank you very much. It is quite right to say that legal advice is required. But I am saying that until that such advice has been sought and received no decision should be taken as to option two or three. Dealing now with my first point that the report is not comparing like with like.

The Alderney Ambulance Service Limited model not only provided a service dealing with emergencies, but also patient transportation in other circumstances. This incurred additional use of resource and cost, options two and three, with which it is compared, does not provide such transport, relying instead on people using taxi or other private transport. To provide a fair comparison, there should have been an assessment of the costs and call on resource that if a new Alderney Ambulance Service company/charity were to limit itself to emergencies. There is no reason why that could not be done.

Secondly, the suggestion of bias and for this I will need to refer to a number of statements in the Billet letter. There are further examples that were presented to P&F. Page 14, when listing pros and cons of the Alderney Ambulance new company model it is regarded as negative that it would require some of the existing volunteers to be retained. Or is that a reference to the former volunteers, or else there would have to be recruitment and training of new volunteers. Yet on page 17 the seeking of more volunteers for option three is listed as positive.

Back to page 14, why would there be a risk of the previous issues recurring if agreed procedures were followed? It presupposes, without justification, that there would not be efficient management, potential risk of reliance on one family, recruitment would be a matter for the new directors and I would say that, on Alderney, in many of the voluntary organisations, there are many members of family in more than one of these situations. So would we then consider that unhealthy in every single organisation? I think it is wrong.

925

Dependency on subscriptions is seen as negative, although it has worked satisfactorily for decades. At page 18, it is stated that the least able to afford the subscription are the most likely not to subscribe, but that is their choice. If the cost of the service is put on the property tax, they will have no choice but to pay, regardless of how likely they are to need the service.

930 Back to page 14. Another negative for the AFS new company is said to be that visitors and tourists expect a free service, the same as in the UK. That of course is also true of doctors and hospital service and is why they should have insurance. Do Alderney residents want to provide a free service to all visitors?

935 It also claims, without justification, that it would take a significant time to set up a new structure. I submit it will take longer to get around the issue of the Alderney Ambulance assets being used for charitable purposes.

940 Re option two, it mentions joint working with on and off-Island professionals. This is no different from the prospects at option one, but there is no reference to this in the earlier section. It is stated that other costs can be accommodated within the Civil Service capacity. Yes, but they will still cost and no assessment of what additional calls on staff time and resource will amount to. The estimates of cost are therefore deficient and I would point out that we are told, at this time, that there is a significant burden of work on all the States departments and that that is going to be something that probably extra staff will have to be employed for.

945 Option three: boundaries on the extent of medical intervention would be established. This has a direct impact on how highly trained volunteers need to be, which has cost implications. Also whether the pool of joint fire and ambulance personnel is sufficiently large and trained enough to meet all eventualities.

950 The level of establishment of the airport and town fire brigades is based upon the perceived need to cope with all fire incidents. Can there be confidence that, in addition, they can cope with ambulance requirements on the occasion of a serious incident, requiring the presence and skills of all first responders? Heaven forbid there could be a serious air crash, for which the fire service is geared to deal with, which could also require all available ambulance personnel ...

Alternatively, demand for all available ambulance personnel elsewhere on the Island could lead the airport under-manned and having to close.

955 Option three envisages 16 volunteers, therefore it also needs recruitment. However this is not listed as a negative, quite the reverse. More volunteers being sought is listed as positive. Finally, the letter states that a state-run service makes it possible that fees for covering public events could be waived, but still they cost. It is just that the cost will be shuffled onto another budget.

960 In conclusion, it is claimed that the options paper sets out a consistent comparison. No it does not. It does not compare like with like and applies consideration unfairly to suit the case for option three. The claim that additional resilience provided without compromising the response and cover available in the event of a serious incident is open to question, given the dual role of personnel, and is a statement that could be quoted into any inquiry on the handling of a serious incident.

970 All the Members know I am looking to put right a situation, which involves quite a percentage of our Island population. Every family of every one of those 11 volunteers who remained loyal to their executive lead officer, Mel Walden, deserve better from our States. The pain felt amongst those families amounts to a lot of people who are quite right in feeling that they and their leader have been poorly treated.

I will not include the last-minute email, which arrived late this morning. Without a doubt, this is too late, and I am not willing to include them because I believe the Members should be treated with the respect that they deserve and given the four clear working days' consideration of any additional material.

975 I firmly believe that to do the right thing for Alderney, I recommend that we vote for option one, a new board with a similar volunteer structure. This gives the opportunity to negotiate with the members of the old team and their leader to go back in place. They have never been given

the chance to put right what they believe ... they were never given the chance to show the steps that they were taking to put things right and all of that was underway, but they never had the chance to prove it, they were never allowed to present their case and, not only that, their scheme, that they submitted – which is a perfectly reasonable and sensible one backed up by some excellent personalities who were previously involved – was never given a chance and never considered. That has to be wrong and I am asking the States, I am imploring the States to vote for option one. Option one is the right option.

985 Thank you.

The President: Thank you. Just for the sake of clarity, Mr Jean, the vote is whether or not to approve option three. So that is a binary choice and therefore it is not open to your colleagues to vote for option one today.

990

Mr Jean: Well, can I say that that is very devious and that is presented very badly in the Billet and I am not at all happy with that. It should have been that we had three options to vote for. There you are, you see, I just waste my time talking to you people. I really do.

995 **The President:** Does anybody else wish to speak on this Item?

The Greffier: Yes sir. Mr Harris has intimated he would like to speak.

The President: Mr Harris, please.

1000

Mr Harris: Your Excellency, Mr President, fellow States' Members. Mr Dent and Ms Burgess have covered the relevant points with their speeches so I will try and avoid any repetition. I have just got a few comments to make, really. The only question to ask here, really, is what is the best option for the future of medical care on Alderney? Everything else aside, that is the only point we really need to consider.

1005

As option three is supported by the Island Medical Centre, the Mignot Memorial Hospital, the volunteer force and, from the majority of comments received, the public, then I am certain that this is the best option for the Island for the future. Last year I was appointed as States' liaison to the Alderney Ambulance Service and, as a result, I had several dealings with the board at the time and several of the staff that subsequently left the service.

1010

Unfortunately, as elected States' Members, we often have to make difficult decisions. This has certainly been one of them. The former crews have my sympathy as to how this difficult situation was initially managed, but the Island needs a line drawn under this now – for the crews, new and old, and for the people of Alderney to move forward.

1015

I will thank all volunteers past and present, who have given their hard work and time to contribute to this most important of services. Alderney would not run without a strong volunteer force. It is what keeps our cogs moving. It is what makes us such a strong community and it is what makes us so very lucky to be able to rely on each other. The way the Covid-19 pandemic has been handled is a prime example of the community coming together stronger and better than before and I commend everyone who has helped in all areas, past and present.

1020

So, to quote an Island medical professional, medical care needs on the Island have changed immeasurably in the past 10 years, becoming more complex and demanding. It is therefore of paramount importance that a sustainable modern, trained and effective emergency response is provided for the people of Alderney.

1025

Finally, I hope now that we can move forward with positivity and support those that give their time to ensure our safety. We cannot afford to not do this properly and the emphasis has to be on safety, efficiency, cost and reputation and the option three model provides all of this. Thus, I will be supporting option three without hesitation.

Thank you.

1030 **The President:** Thank you Mr Harris. Who else would like to speak on this topic, Mr Greffier?

Mr McKinley: May I speak please sir? Mr McKinley.

The President: Yes Mr McKinley, please do.

1035

Mr McKinley: Thank you. Your Excellency, Mr President, fellow States' Members. I will be very brief. I do not want to repeat too much of what has already been said, but I do congratulate Mrs Walden and her team for the excellent service that they have provided for this Island over many years. Unfortunately a slightly critical report, slightly I say, was written by Mr Webber, which led to a number of meetings of interested parties and a very detailed paper, with three recommendations.

1040

I also congratulate Mr Gaudion and all his team for what they have done and continue to do to fill the gap, so to speak. The third option basically supports what they have done and recommends that they should make the arrangement a policy. The financial benefit is also very positive for what is likely to be a very difficult few months, I say months, for Alderney, the coming year. I support option three sir.

1045

The President: Thank you very much indeed, Mr McKinley. Do we have anybody else who would like to speak, Mr Greffier?

1050

The Greffier: At this stage, no sir. Sorry sir, Mr Roberts followed by Mr Gentle.

The President: Right. Mr Roberts please.

1055

Mr Roberts: Your Excellency, sir. What worries me is the cost implication and also another point is some combined services aspects may well be incompatible. You cannot be in two places at once and the fire service and the ambulance together, in the event of a catastrophe, which could happen, or two separate incidents, we could well be in the mire and I do not think the cover will be actually as good as what we had before, however.

1060

There will also be more administrative demands to the Civil Service on this and they are already complaining they are too busy anyway. So they are going to have more work to do. I do not think really, personally, think it is ready to be decided. We need more clarity in what happens to the charity funds. That really does worry me. It is a big question for a big amount. We cannot just ignore it to do that.

1065

The main thing that worries me is to put £50 or something on property tax for every single property owner here to pay for it, well they are already going to have to pay extra property tax on what they pay now to pay for business. That is already the plan. So are we going to put property tax up and up? Is that the way we want to do it? That is not the way I really want to do it.

1070

I would really like to see this deferred to find out what the electorate want. I would really like to know what the public actually feel. The man in the street, what do they feel they want? Do they want to pay it on their property tax, on top of everything else what they are going to have to pay? Or would they rather see the old type service that we had before. It was okay. It worked. We did have a tremendous service from that family; tremendous. I know first-hand and I cannot praise them enough and I think it was very badly handled.

1075

But I would just like to give my thanks to all the volunteers on Alderney. We really do think you are fantastic, both past and present and thank you very much. I am not content with this plan to put it on the property tax and make everybody pay on top of what they are going to be paying extra in the future. That is all I have got to say.

1080

Thank you.

The President: Thank you, Mr Roberts. Mr Gentle, the floor is yours.

1085 **Mr Gentle:** Thank you, sir. Your Excellency, Mr President, colleagues, I think just about everything I would have said has already been covered by people previous to me. I think the only point that has been missed is the added benefit of a clinical support officer for the six months to manage the transition to this new option is a very sound proposal, particularly when allied to the clinical governance, using St John Ambulance in Guernsey.

1090 The option in front of us has the support of the majority of the public and the health professionals, as we have already heard. This was first suggested in 2015 as a strategic aim, back when Mr Taylor wrote a paper. In answer to something Mr Roberts has just said, he mentions about the charity funds. I think Mr Dent covered that earlier when he talked about the articles of association and making gifts of assets. I will be voting in favour of this Billet Item.

1095 Thank you.

The President: Thank you, Mr Gentle. Do we have anybody else, Mr Greffier, who would like to speak?

1100 **The Greffier:** Yes sir, Mr Snowdon.

The President: Please Mr Snowdon.

Mr Snowdon: Thank you, sir.

1105 I would say it is actually a very complex subject this one and I would just like to go through a few points if that is alright with you, sir. I find myself coming back to the Wilson Report in 2017. I believe, Mr Dent will probably say a bit later on, when we get to questions and answers, that the States of Alderney is commissioning him to do a little bit more work.

1110 I think it really comes in, how does the ambulance service work with basically what Mr Wilson or other people may think what practices should be in Alderney, how they should be run, whether they be private businesses or not. I think really the situation that we seem to be in with the ambulance station is that we are taking a decision because we have basically been forced into this situation, unfortunately, and we are making quite a big decision, which needs to be made.

1115 However I just feel it should really be in parallel with the Wilson Report, which was back in 2017, quite some time ago, which is hopefully going to resurface a bit, about how we actually have medical care for Alderney and the Bailiwick going forward.

1120 I appreciate Mr Dent gave some clarification about the charity status, basically donating its assets to the States of Alderney. However, I did write an email last week that I think all Members were copied into, to the CEO, to try and get some clarification from the Law Officers, if that was going to be allowed or not. Mr Dent, unfortunately, has not clarified if that information that he has received is from the Law Officers and, if it is from the Law Officers, I am a little bit disappointed that did not actually go to all States' Members. I did not get any clarification from my email. But I am concerned about that point as well.

1125 I think really I am glad we are having this debate in the full States, because I think it was actually going to be decided at the P&F and I think it is very important the public hear what we have got to say about this matter. However, I feel that we are moving a little bit too quickly on this Item and I think we should be a bit more cautious. I am very much interested to see what the next stage with the Wilson Report actually highlights for us.

1130 I would ask, I do notice in the report it talks about St John Ambulance in Guernsey and, as we know, the Alderney service was under St John Ambulance for quite some time in Guernsey and then it was felt that it should be broken away and we had the golden share, that was going to go to the States of Alderney. The States of Alderney tried to give it to the Alderney Foundation, who did not even want it; I do not even know where that golden share ended up in the end of it. But I

1135 am a little bit concerned that the talks have not really be more with St John Ambulance in
Guernsey about going under St John Ambulance in Guernsey. It just refers to one sentence in all
of this documentation that it was not a viable option, I think it said.

1140 I think, where is that information? We did not get any more information about P&F about
that matter. I am concerned that we have not actually had the documentation from St John
Ambulance in Guernsey saying why that option is definitely closed, because that is how it was
run before. Then I think, if I remember, it was James Dent that spoke about the added costs of it
being independent of £30,000-£40,000 but however, if it was under St John Ambulance in
Guernsey, would not those possibly group together and it would not really be anything like that
sort of cost? So I am concerned about St John Ambulance, we have not really got clarification
from Guernsey all that much.

1145 I am also concerned about the single property tax, which seems to be turning into something
else, when it was not really what it was brought in for. I thought the idea of a single property tax
was actually to try and help businesses and commercial property, reduce and rebalance if we
can possibly. Now it seems to be a sort of Trojan horse where, if we want some money, just
whack it on the single property tax.

1150 Now that did not get decided at P&F to my knowledge. I do not know who has come up with
this idea that we are now going to introduce more funds on the single property tax to cover
things. I do actually get very concerned that this may be the start of many things, where we just
look at taxing this taxation, because we feel that is the only way to really go ahead with the way
forward with the whole issue.

1155 So, I do listen to all of the, lots of emails and counter-sides on this. I know it is a very heated
and very passionate subject and of course we have got to do the best for the Island going
forward, but I come back to I think we are rushing a little bit too much and we need to have an
overall look at the whole strategy for what healthy living is on the Island and how we can maybe
improve it. It is very good at the moment but there are issues that need to be improved.

1160 So that leads me to my next question – I do apologise if I may have missed it but I did not see
it in the documentation – has Health & Social Care had any influence on the overall strategy for
our health and have conversation taken place with Heidi and her Committee, because myself
and Mr Roberts did have conversations, maybe a year ago, nine months ago, initially? I just
wonder what conversations happened politically because, as you know, health transfer service
1165 mainly, they are on board with things and they are switched on and we have got their views and
feedback and that comes back to I am not satisfied that we have got the right documentation in
front of us from quite a number of different stakeholders.

1170 I really do appreciate the Island Medical Centre has input, all of the doctors' input, and I think
that is actually fantastic. However, overall, I am very concerned that we are potentially going
down a situation where we are making a decision where we have not got the overall strategy,
the overall policy of what we are trying to do, because this Item needs to be resolved. It does
need to be resolved but I am really sort of leaning towards a little pause and review to make
sure that everything is lined up correctly before we actually make that final decision. I think it is
probably going to be having to be quite a lot of work done around the whole health delivery on
1175 Alderney and then I really go back to that Wilson Report. How will we afford that?

1180 So unfortunately I find that I am on the fence with this, which probably means that I am
unable to vote for it, unless something swings it on Mr Dent's closing speeches, because I feel
that we are moving a bit too quickly because we have not highlighted and assessed all the
different items, which need to be done, rather than just focusing on one item. Personally, I think
St John Ambulance, Guernsey ran it very well and I think the old crew ran it very well. I think the
new temporary crew, who may be the full-time crew, run it very well as well.

But I just feel that we need to make sure that we fully understand and we have got all the
different stakeholders, so Health in Guernsey, Wilson Report, other stakeholders, to make sure
that we know exactly what we are doing and I go back to I was actually concerned that the single

1185 property tax thing is a Trojan horse, that it was not actually what we thought of, initially, but it was to help new businesses, I thought, but it seems to have turned into something else.

At the moment I have got quite of concerns. I hope Mr Dent can maybe work through them, if he has got his pen and paper out making notes, but I feel very cautious to go down this until we have got the full picture of everything. I do appreciate the amount of work that has gone into this but I do not think we have actually had enough input at P&F with this at all. I am glad this debate is happening today in the States but I just feel that we need to make sure everything is great.

1195 The worst thing is we move to something and then it conflicts with something else of it breaks down. We are into the worst situation. I do emphasise I do really appreciate all the doctors' input and everything, but I feel very cautious on this matter at the moment. As I say I am on the fence but I look forward to more clarification from Mr Dent and actually wthey we have not had those key bits of stakeholder input to all of the States' Members before we got to this debate also concerns me. So I pass it back to you, frankly.

Thank you very much.

1200

The President: Thank you very much indeed, Mr Snowdon. Does anybody else wish to speak?

The Greffier: Yes sir. Mr Dean.

1205

The President: Mr Dean, please.

Mr Dean: Sir, Your Excellency, fellow States' Members. Like some of the other States' Members have already commented, I do not wish to repeat myself. Obviously, we have shortlisted down to have the three options. We have gone through those options. I do not think we have enough detail on option three. Obviously, the service at the moment is a charity, so they are getting some donations in and then people are doing subscriptions. Obviously, most of that will possibly dry up because it then becomes run by the States, because people are going to say, 'Well if the States are doing it, we are not going to send our money to the States.' I have had various emails about that already.

1215 Some people already self-insure so, as Mr Snowdon has quite rightly pointed out, the single property tax becoming a little bit of a Trojan horse, will there be the opportunity for people to opt out if the ambulance subscription is going to go onto the property tax, because some people decide to self-insure themselves, or they actually have medical insurance that covers ambulance, so they feel they would be paying twice?

1220 I do not feel that this option three, we do not have enough detailed information. It is alright voting for option three and saying that the Treasury is going to look into it and see how that model is going to be worked into the situation. However, we do not have enough detail on about that, so it would be interesting if Mr Dent is going to touch on that when he sums up and those are some of the issues that I think are going to come to a head now and I do not think we have that just tailed off at the moment. So those are my concerns, along with some of the other concerns the Members have already raised.

1225

Thank you, sir.

The President: Thank you very much indeed, Mr Dean. Do you have anybody else, Mr Greffier?

1230

The Greffier: Sir no, the only remaining Member is Mr Earl. At the moment he has not indicated he wishes to speak, so that is everybody sir.

The President: Thank you. Well then Mr Dent, do you wish to exercise your opportunity to sum up?

1235

1240 **Mr Dent:** Mr President, I shall be very brief in my summing up because I think all the points have been covered. I do not think I am necessarily going to switch anybody's mind. I think everybody has made some points that they believe in. The only thing that I think I really would like to say is the issue of the subscription and the single property tax and putting a little bit on in order to cover the cost of the ambulance was actually discussed at P&F. I certainly remember it being discussed there and I do not remember Mr Snowdon raising any objections at the time. I think that is really the only point I would like to make in regard to the points that have been made.

1245 Thank you very much.

The President: Thank you very much indeed, Mr Dent.
Mr Greffier, can we take these items separately, please, when we take the vote?

1250 **The Greffier:** Yes sir. In that case maybe, due to the slight complexities, we will do an oral vote, if you are happy sir.

The President: Yes I am, thank you.

1255 **The Greffier:** In which case, Mr Jean.

Mr Jean: Could you tell us the item we are voting for?

1260 **The Greffier:** My apologies. The States of Alderney is asked to approve the implementation of option three to create a combined Ambulance and Fire Service.

Mr Jean: I am afraid I am against that and I am disappointed.

1265 **Mr Roberts:** I do not think it is quite ready. I am really on the fence with this, but I have to vote against.

A vote was taken and the results were as follows:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
Mr McKinley	Mr Jean	None
Mr Dent	Mr Roberts	
Mr Dean	Mr Snowdon	
Mr Gentle		
Ms Burgess		
Mr Harris		
Mr Earl		

The Greffier: Sir, that is 7 votes for and 3 against.

1270 **The President:** So that Proposition passes. So can we move now to the second part of the Proposition.

The Greffier: Thank you. That is the States of Alderney are asked to request the preparation of options to move away from a subscription service in the 2021 Budget.

A vote was taken and the results were as follows:

FOR

Mr McKinley
Mr Dent
Mr Gentle
Ms Burgess
Mr Harris
Mr Earl

AGAINST

Mr Jean
Mr Roberts
Mr Snowdon
Mr Dean

ABSTAINED

None

1275

The Greffier: Six votes in favour and 4 against, sir.

The President: Thank you very much indeed.

**VII. Amendments to the Code of Conduct – Emergency Provisions –
Proposition carried**

Item VII.

The States of Alderney are asked:

To approve the amendments to The Code of Conduct for States Members, approved by resolution of the States on 16th October 2019.

The President: We now move to Item VII on the Billet, please.

1280

The Greffier: Thank you, sir.

Item VII this evening is amendments to the Code of Conduct – Emergency Provisions. A letter has been received from Mr Dent in his capacity of Chairman of the Policy & Finance Committee and the States of Alderney are asked to approve the amendments to the Code of Conduct for States' Members, approved by Resolution of the States on 16th October 2019.

1285

The President: Mr Harris, I understand there were no comments received in respect of this Item.

1290

Mr Harris: That is correct sir. No comments from members of the public.

Mr President: And so Mr Dent, it is for you to propose this Item.

1295

Mr Dent: Mr President, colleagues, these are, as the title states, the emergency amendments, which will only ever apply if the President, that is your good self, determines they are to be implemented after representation from the Civil Contingencies Authority. They will of course apply as long as the current emergency continues and may be applied in the future should an emergency akin to the one we now face recur. In short, the changes allow virtual meetings and electronic communications and are a useful tool, should we ever need them.

1300

Thank you very much.

The President: Thank you Mr Dent. Mr Gentle, you will be seconding this.

Mr Gentle: Yes sir. Thank you. I am seconding and I have nothing further to add.

1305

The President: Thank you very much. Does any other Member have anything they would like to say about this Item?

Mr Jean: I would if I may.

1310 **The President:** Yes please, Mr Jean.

Mr Jean: There we are; I am un-muted. What I want to say is that this, to my mind, is somewhat frivolous that we are spending our time with, we are told, a strain on resources with our Civil Service, that we are spending our time doing this as we are moving away from lockdown. I do not really see the reason for it and I would like Mr Dent to explain why it is being done and perhaps Mr Gentle, as well, to tell us why he is seconding it. I think it is wrong, it is a waste of time, it is not necessary and, anyway, if anybody was coming before a Code of Conduct panel, they would probably request the right to have their hearing in public.

I declare an interest because there is a possible Code of Conduct out on me, so what I would say about that is I would want my hearing in public, not by scanner and in closed circuit, I think it is wrong. I think it should be in public and should be the right of anybody who might be Code of Conduct-ed to be able to say what they want, whether they want it in public or by this method, to be done electronically and I think this is a frivolous waste of Civil Service time and resources and, not only that, this has been done very quickly and it shows that you can actually get a piece of legislation, if you want something, up before the States not much less than a month, which is quite extraordinary and a waste of resources, a waste of time and I think it is absolutely outrageous.

The President: Thank you, Mr Jean.
1330 Does anybody else wish to make any representations in respect of this Item?

The Greffier: Yes sir, Mr Dean.

The President: Mr Dean, please.
1335

Mr Dean: Thank you, sir.

Your Excellency, fellow States' Members, like Mr Jean: we have virtual meetings, they have been good, it has allowed Government to continue and it has allowed committee meetings to continue but it is not the same as actually sitting face to face and discussing items with people and I think, when a Member is under a Code of Conduct charge, it is right he has the right to address the panel and I think it is important he has the right to address the panel in person, rather than via a remote hearing, so I certainly will not be supporting this.

Thank you, sir.

The President: Thank you, Mr Dean.
1345 Anybody else, Mr Greffier?

The Greffier: Yes sir. Mr Snowdon.

The President: Mr Snowdon please.
1350

Mr Snowdon: Thank you, sir. I am just a little bit surprised to see this coming up actually because we are in phase four and we might be in phase five some time in the near future, with regard to the awful Covid-19 crisis. I do not really see why we are moving towards this again. I think it is actually when you have got a Code of Conduct it is very important that Member is able to be there, if required to be there, and be able to talk to a person, look them in the eye. I think having a virtual Code of Conduct Panel meeting is not the best thing for that Member going through.

It does cause a lot of stress to the Member. Potential health issues, mental wellbeing and I think the least that can happen is that the Member can actually sit in front of people, of course with social distancing if it was going to happen any time soon, and have a fair hearing, rather

than everything potentially being all closed doors or just on a tablet. I do not think that is correct at all.

1365 Actually I think this is trying to move forward but actually in the process it is moving
backwards. So I will not be supporting this at all and I do not think it is the right thing to be doing
at the moment. The Code of Conduct was passed by the States of Alderney. It is in place, it sets
out the process and procedure. Now we would be doing it all on tablets and everything and I do
not think it is the right occasion for this. We are moving out of lockdown. I think the
1370 opportunities will arise in the near future for basically that Code of Conduct Panel to meet,
socially distancing, probably in some sort of building, but to be doing it all on tablets, it is
concerning to me.

I just go a little bit further. Obviously we have confidential meetings with our tablets and
everything and States' Members sit in rooms where there is no one else present, for a P&F
Meeting, GSC meeting, something like that, and it does actually I think raise a question of we are
1375 now moving the Code of Conduct to a virtual Code of Conduct, how are we making sure there is
no one else in the room when they could be going into that trial basis. What are the data
protection implications under the Bailiwick Law 2017? I do not know. Again, have we got the
information? Unfortunately, no. It is just on the Billet, for a bit rubber-stamping again.

I will not be supporting this. Thank you.

1380

The President: Thank you, Mr Snowdon.

Does that complete the Members who wish to speak, Mr Greffier?

1385 **Mr McKinley:** May I say something please, Mr President?

The Greffier: Mr McKinley and Ms Burgess, sir.

The President: Mr McKinley, please.

1390 **Mr McKinley:** Very briefly sir, I am not quite sure whether Mr Snowdon fully understands
what this is about. This is a temporary measure, which we are hoping will end soon. We are
putting it in place because Covid-19 is not over yet. It may be over. We think it is over here in the
Bailiwick. But it is not over in England and it is quite possible, I am afraid to say, that it may
spread back to the Channel Islands in due course. I pray that it does not. But if a similar outbreak
1395 happens again, we need to have this emergency process in place.

The Greffier: I am sorry to interrupt you, Mr McKinley, Mr Snowdon would like to raise a
point of order sir.

1400 **The President:** What is the point of order, Mr Snowdon, please?

Mr Snowdon: Thank you, sir.

I think Mr McKinley is saying that this is a temporary measure but as far as I can see when
this comes into force it can be used when required to be used. I do not see any expiry date on
1405 any of this legislation. Perhaps I missed it.

Thank you.

1410 **Mr McKinley:** That is just what I have said. I have said it is a temporary measure. We hope
that it will finish but it must be there, held in reserve, just in case it breaks out again. That is all I
have to say sir.

The President: Thank you. Ms Burgess please.

Ms Burgess: Thank you, Your Excellency, Mr President, fellow States' Members.

1415 Not much to say on this but a small point is that I have had feedback from other Members
who have gone through this in the past and I have been told that it is very stressful, it is a very
stressful situation to be in. I think that it is understood that this is temporary and it is about the
crisis we are in now with Covid-19. However, I think we can do social distancing – the board that
1420 hears your case is not great. I think we can actually find a way around this that is not just having
a remote meeting. In the need to support our fellow States' Members, I would not be very
comfortable with voting for this.

The President: Thank you, Ms Burgess.

Is there anybody else, Mr Greffier, who would like to speak?

1425

The Greffier: Yes, Mr Roberts.

The President: Mr Roberts then, please.

1430 **Mr Roberts:** Your Excellency, Mr President, fellow States' Members, I will not be supporting
this legislation. I have never been a big fan of the upgrade of the Code of Conduct. We had an
old Code of Conduct. It worked perfectly well in the past and I realise this is to use the remote,
but there is no need for such measures on such a scale in Alderney.

1435 It has been proved counter-productive on a dozen or more occasions and I find them divisive
in bringing about personal, invalid attacks on individual States' Members. It costs money and it
wastes time to the detriment of Government. Thank you very much. Thank you for letting me
speak, sir.

The President: Thank you very much indeed for your contribution, Mr Roberts.

1440 Mr Greffier, if there is nobody else, then I will ask Mr Dent if he wishes to sum up the
Proposition.

The Greffier: Sir, no other Members have indicated a wish to speak.

1445 **The President:** Thank you very much indeed. Mr Dent.

1450 **Mr Dent:** The only thing I would like to say, Mr President, is that this is only a temporary
thing in that it has to be after a representation from the Civil Contingencies Authority and the
Civil Contingencies Authority would not be making a representation unless there was a
continuing emergency, be it a recurrence of the Covid-19, but I think it is useful, in fact, to have
all the tools in the tool box, should we ever need them. I hope to goodness we do not, in fact.

The President: Thank you very much indeed Mr Dent. So could we put this, please, to the
vote, Mr Greffier?

1455

The Greffier: Thank you, sir and for the sake of clarity I will do another verbal vote just to
assist with the slight technical issues there. The States of Alderney are asked to approve the
amendments to the Code of Conduct for States' Members, approved by Resolution of the States
on 16th October 2019.

A vote was taken and the results were as follows:

FOR

Mr McKinley
Mr Dent
Mr Gentle
Mr Harris
Mr Earl

AGAINST

Mr Jean
Mr Roberts
Mr Snowdon
Mr Dean
Ms Burgess

ABSTAINED

None

1460

The Greffier: Sir, by my calculations that is 5 Members in favour and 5 against.

1465

The President: Then that puts me in the position where I have to consider, subject to Section 44(2) of the Government of Alderney Law, whether I in fact exercise my casting vote in respect of this matter.

I have listened very carefully to the debate and I am very conscious of the fact that these are very temporary measures, which will only apply in the event that the current circumstances pertain. But also they make provision, should we enter a phase of restriction in the future that they would be available to be used then and they will only be used in those circumstances.

1470

I have listened carefully to all the reservations that States' Members have had. In the circumstances, however, and given the very unusual times that we are living in, I think it is extremely important that there is clarity around this and that, should it prove necessary and as a last resort, if we cannot conduct the meetings using social distancing, which is the preferred option, then we would have the ability to have this take place in a remote setting. So, for those reasons, I propose to exercise my vote in favour of the Proposition.

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The Greffier: Thank you, sir.

The President: I think that concludes Items I to VII.

**VIII. Questions and Reports –
Eight questions for verbal reply**

Four questions from Mr Alexander Snowdon for the Chairman of the Policy & Finance Committee:

(1) Could the Chairman of Policy & Finance Committee explain what progress is being made by the action group sourcing a new CEO?

(2) Can the Chairman outline the staycation marketing of Alderney to the rest of the Bailiwick and explain if extra capacity by air and sea will be required? What is the transport strategy?

(3) The dreaded Covid-19 virus will have an enormous impact on economies around the world. Could Mr Dent state the different areas the Alderney recovery plan will cover and when this will be presented to the States of Alderney for debate with an endorsement?

(4) Alderney's Policy & Finance Committee has approved the terms of reference for a review to determine what sort of GP model the Island both needs and wants. Professor Wilson's 2017 Report listed four options, could the Chairman explain what is happening with bringing in any new models?

Three questions from Mr Alexander Snowdon for the Chairman of the General Services Committee:

(1) Could the Chairman of General Services Committee confirm when the re-opening of the commercial quay will take place so people who may not be very mobile can safely fish when the harbour is not operating?

(2) Have local divers been asked to tender for the yearly mooring checks, therefore keeping public money being spent in the local economy? Is this a committee decision or operational?

(3) Seeing businesses are now allowed to operate as long as they follow social distancing, should Victoria Street be closed during some hours to allow businesses to overflow into the street, whether pavement or road? This could create extra capacity and a buzz in Town?

One question from Mr James Dent for Alderney Representatives in the States of Deliberation:

Could the Alderney Representatives briefly summarise their activities in the States of Guernsey since the last Meeting of the States of Alderney?

1480 **The President:** We now move onto Item VIII, questions and reports.

The Greffier: Yes sir, a number of questions have been raised, a total of eight. The first seven are from Mr Snowdon to two of the Committee Chairmen and the last from Mr Dent to the Alderney Representatives.

1485 **The President:** Would it be helpful Mr Snowdon if I were to read the questions for you?

Mr Snowdon: Please do sir, thank you.

Progress on appointing new CEO

1490 **The President:** Thank you. So the first question from Mr Snowdon is to the Chairman of Policy & Finance, Mr Dent. Could the Chairman of Policy & Finance Committee explain what progress is being made by the action group sourcing a new CEO?

1495 **Mr Dent:** Mr Snowdon, thank you. On 24th February, an action group was established by the Employment Board to oversee the search for a replacement CEO. It was agreed the Members would be the President and the Chairs of the three main Committees and Alderney Representative in the States of Guernsey, your good self.

1500 On 10th March there was a meeting of the action group. Other members of the Employment Board were invited to attend and the initial advice on the process for sourcing a new CEO was received from Mr Tim Langlois, who is a human resources officer from Guernsey and from Crown Advocate Emily Bamber. Tim Langlois offered to continue his assistance with the process and his offer was accepted.

1505 Since then, and in the period to the end of March, approaches were made to two head-hunting organisations and also to Guernsey to see if they might be able to assist, at least in the interim. Preliminary advice was that this was not a good time to try and source a permanent replacement. At the end of March, about the time we were beginning lockdown, the majority view was therefore that it would be best to request our current CEO to stay until the crisis had subsided. We needed continuity.

In April, we received more positive signals from Guernsey regarding possible assistance, but nothing definitive. On 21st May the President resigned his position as line manager for the CEO

1510 and also his membership and chairmanship of the action group. He did this on the grounds of his not being a member of the Employment Board.

While much initial groundwork has been done, the Employment Board will clearly need to reconvene soon. Amongst other things it will need to appoint a possible new fifth member to the action group and also to appoint a new chairman for the group.

1515 Thank you very much.

The President: Thank you. Mr Snowdon, do you wish to ask a supplementary question?

Mr Snowdon: No but thank you to Mr Dent for answering.

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The President: Thank you very much. Would any other Member like to ask a question of Mr Dent, arising out of the answer he has given?

The Greffier: Mr Roberts would, sir.

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The President: Mr Roberts, please.

Mr Roberts: Thank you, sir. Can the President assure the States that the terms of reference will be reviewed and explain to any potential replacement, permanent or temporary, to clarify the job requirements?

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The President: I am sorry, did you address that question to me?

Mr Roberts: No sir, Mr Dent.

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The President: Yes, Mr Dent. Sorry.

Mr Dent: I am not the chairman of the action group so I think it would be inappropriate for me to answer that in a collective sense. I would certainly think from my own perspective, yes. Thank you.

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Mr Roberts: Thank you, sir.

The President: Thank you very much indeed. Does any other Member have a question for Mr Dent on this topic?

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Mr Jean: If I may?

The President: Mr Jean.

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Mr Jean: Thank you. I would ask, we are in this situation now where we really do not know where we are at. We do not know who is where, what and we are really at a bit of a loss to know where we are going. Do you have any idea, for instance, when the resignation date will come and when we will get on for looking for a new CEO, Mr Dent? Could you shed any light on that, because now the way the resignation was rescinded seems to show that now we are betwixt and between. We do not know where we are at. Thank you.

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The President: Mr Dent.

Mr Dent: Mr Jean, I do not think I can answer the first part of your question. It is not for me to say. You had a second part to your question, can you just repeat it?

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1565 **Mr Jean:** Yes, I can repeat it. The second part of my question was we have found ourselves in the situation where we are betwixt and between, we just do not know where we stand. We have not got a permanent CEO and when will we be going out to recruit them and do you know when the current CEO intends to resign?

1570 **Mr Dent:** Thank you. I have answered the first part. I do not and it is not for me to say. When the action group is reconstituted, which I hope will be fairly soon, then maybe the action group will be able to point the way a little bit more clearly forward. Thank you.

The President: Thank you, Mr Dent. Does anybody else have a question for Mr Dent?

The Greffier: Sir, no other Members have indicated a wish to speak.

Staycation marketing

1575 **The President:** Thank you very much indeed, so we will move onto question number two, again this is from Mr Snowdon to Mr Dent. Can the Chairman outline the staycation marketing of Alderney to the rest of the Bailiwick and explain if extra capacity by air and sea will be required? What is the transport strategy?

1580 **Mr Dent:** Mr Snowdon, and as you would expect, Visit Guernsey and Visit Alderney are at the centre of this initiative. Anyone who has looked at their websites recently will see that Visit Guernsey, in association with Visit Alderney, are actively promoting staycations as an alternative for Bailiwick residents to their traditional summer break.

1585 Both organisations are promoting hotel, self-catering and other facilities that are already open or about to open and are to embrace the concept. The campaign is being promoted digitally and in print throughout the Bailiwick. As part of this campaign, an invitation has been sent to all homes in Guernsey inviting Islanders to join the 'staycation club'. This invitation directs them to a new section of the visitguernsey.com website, which lists all the activities available to them, along with exclusive special offers from the whole industry.

1590 Both organisations are highlighting the attractions of both Alderney and Sark to Guernsey residents and of Guernsey to everyone from the Bailiwick and we should be extremely grateful for their very rapid take-up of the concept. I am sure that, as summer develops, we will see an ever-increasing push.

1595 As regards transport, as the lockdown has continued, the States have been in constructive dialogue with the appropriate authorities in Guernsey over the short-term requirements for air connectivity. It has been difficult to plan for specific dates, largely because no one has able to give the precise timetable for the various phases of lockdown relief.

1600 We are, however, focusing on matching supply to demand as the latter gradually increases. Of course, as the situation continues to evolve throughout the summer, hopefully with the staycation concept driving demand, we will be continuing our discussion. All parties will be monitoring the situation.

1605 Load factors, as you will fully understand, were extremely low during April and May. Flights were operating mostly with only three or four passengers. The situation is however now changing, but growth is still slow and no one yet knows what appetite there will be for Bailiwick vacation breaks. Though I have to say the initial signs are extremely good. There is an awful lot of interest.

1610 As we move into phase four, the discussions with STSB and Aurigny have been fast paced. In fact the situation has been changing virtually on a day by day basis. Usefully, as Aurigny staff have only been furloughed, we believe that they should be available quickly to meet any arising demand.

1615 One key factor that has hindered progress to date has of course been the fact that Aurigny has only been able to book 10 seats per flight. This has been to meet the requirements of social distancing. However, we understand that discussions between Aurigny and the health authorities in Guernsey, will shortly result in the airline being able to lift this number to 18. This will be contingent on the wearing of face masks. If this occurs then the capacity on the Alderney-Guernsey route will rise by 80% overnight.

1620 Separate from this, we are liaising with the States' Trading Supervisory Board and Aurigny for the Sunday afternoon rotation to be reinstated. This is seen as particularly important support for the Bailiwick's staycation initiative. The majority of early interest appears to be for weekend breaks, both from and to Guernsey. We understand that this may return as early as the week commencing 14th June.

1625 One might reasonably expect that the next flight to be introduced will be the second rotations on Tuesdays and Thursdays and perhaps Saturday morning, but this will depend upon demand rising. Everybody needs, however, to understand that we are not in a position to make public announcements until Aurigny confirms details and announces them. Opening hours at both Alderney's and Guernsey's airports are of course also part of the conversations.

1630 In short, we intend to continue monitoring the flight situation carefully but beware, if demand is not justified on reinstated flights there may be contractions. We do not of course expect this to happen. In fact, we expect quite the opposite. In addition we will have the *Little Ferry* operating again, with substantial financial support. This will provide an additional 24 seats per day in both directions, with capacity to slot in a further rotation if demand justifies it at the busiest time.

1635 This will also help with moving freight up from Guernsey, for example the newspapers if the English agents choose to use this route. The *Little Ferry* will be operating under a similar faceguard regime as Aurigny.

For the longer term, we are liaising with the authorities in Guernsey collaboratively for next year and beyond, which is very likely to be included in a larger piece of work, which is looking at Covid recovery planning in the Bailiwick as a whole. We are currently expecting this to be addressed in a policy letter for the States of Deliberation.

1640 As you can appreciate, the fiscal and financial landscapes for both States will change markedly post-Covid, so there may be significant challenges.

1645 We have also examined the availability and the opportunity for larger ferry services. There was, for example, some talk of a ferry to Herm Island or the *Victor Hugo* might be available. However, the Herm Island ferry would require modification before it would be allowed to travel beyond near coastal waters, which I believe are defined as three miles offshore. Even were it to be licensed for longer distance commercial services, there are I believe a number of other unanswered questions in regard to its suitability for our own coastal water.

1650 The *Victor Hugo* is, I believe, similarly unavailable, although my colleague Mr Jean, who chairs to the Surface Transport Action Group may have different information and may have more up to date information.

Thank you.

The President: Thank you. Mr Snowdon, do you have a question for Mr Dent?

1655 **Mr Snowdon:** Yes. Thank you, sir, thank you to Mr Dent for a very comprehensive answer. My question really was, have we got the capacity, if there is quite an increased demand from Guernsey residents coming up here? I know you are highlight 80% on Aurigny and the *Little Ferry* is very good. But can we get substantial numbers up if the demand is there? Thank you.

1660 **The President:** Mr Dent.

1665 **Mr Dent:** I think I tried to answer that question by saying that we were looking continuously at how capacity could be matched with demand. I think there is obviously much spare capacity in the system, with the two Dorniers they have. They are not being fully utilised at the moment and because the staff, the pilots and the rest, have only been furloughed, they should be available at fairly short notice. All I can say is we are talking to Aurigny fairly continuously on this matter and we hope to be able to match demand and capacity.

1670 **The President:** Thank you Mr Dent. Does any other Member have a question for Mr Dent, arising out of his answer?

Mr Jean: May I sir?

1675 **The President:** Mr Jean.

1680 **Mr Jean:** Thank you. Mr Dent, you have mentioned the Surface Transport Action Group. I am quite disappointed. Around a week ago now I put out a request for a meeting, plus some three weeks ago I put out emails talking about looking for spare ferry capacity in Guernsey and in France and my disappointment is that the Civil Service has not seen fit to reply to me, regarding my request to call a meeting of the STAG group. I wonder perhaps if you could assist me with that at some time in the near future? Thank you.

The President: Thank you. Mr Dent.

1685 **Mr Dent:** Mr Jean, you are the Chairman of the Surface Transport Action Group. I will certainly not hinder you and will do whatever I can to promote your meeting. I am not a member of the Surface Transport Action Group.

1690 **Mr Jean:** Thank you very much.

The President: Thank you, Mr Dent. Does any other Member wish to ask a supplementary question?

1695 **The Greffier:** Yes sir, Mr Roberts.

The President: Mr Roberts.

1700 **Mr Roberts:** Your Excellency, Mr President, fellow States' Members. Can the Chairman please assure that dialogue is being processed with P&R in Guernsey to convey our ambitions to comply with this staycation?

The President: Thank you, Mr Roberts. Mr Dent.

1705 **Mr Dent:** I cannot confirm any dialogue has been had with P&R. I do not think P&R are dealing directly with the staycation issue. But we are having dialogue with all those that are involved with the staycation plan.

The President: Thank you, Mr Dent. Any other Member, Mr Greffier?

1710 **Mr McKinley:** Yes please sir.

Mr McKinley: Sir my remark is not a question it is actually just a point of question, which will add to what Mr Dent spoke of –

1715 **The President:** Mr McKinley, I always hesitate to interrupt, but the rule does say a question.

Mr McKinley: I just had a point of interest, regarding the boat-owners from the Bailiwick, but never mind sir.

1720 **The President:** Thank you. Anybody else, Mr Greffier?

The Greffier: No sir, no other Members have indicated a willingness to ask a question.

Covid-19 recovery plan

1725 **The President:** Thank you. So we now move onto question three. Again, Mr Snowdon for Mr Dent. The dreaded Covid-19 virus will have an enormous impact on economies around the world. Could Mr Dent state the different areas the Alderney recovery plan will cover and when this will be presented to the States of Alderney for debate with an endorsement? Mr Dent.

1730 **Mr Dent:** Mr President, Mr Snowdon, I believe the key to any recovery plan must centre on constructive and collaborative work with Guernsey. I do understand that today the States of Guernsey should be publishing a policy letter that sets out a proposed mechanism for formulating their plan. I must confess I have not yet seen this policy letter, but I shall be reading it as soon as I am able. I would however like to signal this afternoon Alderney's wish to participate in any deliberations on first the mechanisms and subsequently on the plan itself.

1735 I see three key elements but there needs to be dialogue within the States and our own community to develop our own plans. Connectivity should be clearly up there amongst the top priorities. Finding a way to ensure our air and sea links support business and investment. Secondly, there needs to be investment in the Island's infrastructure. We have talked about a number of matters which may stimulate the economy, which we can do with investment in capital projects. And of course making the most of the digital economy.

1740 But I also recognise that we have a major challenge in terms of our population, which will need to be addressed. The proportion of the population that is working age needs to grow. We need to attract more people who can make a contribution to the economy through their skill and enterprise.

1745 There are of course very specific challenges to some industries, particularly those who are part of the visitor economy, and our strategy will need to address those challenges. Finally, this is the recovery, which needs not only to be about the economy but also about our community and its future health and resilience. We will need to take into account how we can strengthen this whole picture as part of our future priorities.

1750 P&F will soon be able to consider the mechanisms and approach we will take and to consider how we fit into the Bailiwick-wide approach. The plan itself will obviously follow on from that discussion and come to the States for consideration. I hope that we can make our contribution along a timeline that is parallel to Guernsey's own timelines.

1755 So, back to your question. At this moment I cannot give fixed dates, but as one of our representatives in the States of Guernsey, please do your bit in Guernsey, as I am sure you will. We will need to ensure that Guernsey's timelines are suitable for our own and the greater Bailiwick's benefit.

Thank you.

The President: Mr Snowdon.

1760 **Mr Snowdon:** Thank you, sir and thank you, Mr Dent, for answering that and the Bailiwick recovery plan, which will be absolutely fundamentally important. However, could I just ask as my supplementary question, the States of Alderney will be undertaking our recovery plan ourselves

1765 and am I right in thinking that is meant to be the Finance Committee and Tourism and Economic Development Committee? It was really going back, when will that be presented and debated in the full States' Chamber – our plan as well as we will get to the Bailiwick one when that happens? Thank you.

1770 **Mr Dent:** I can confirm, Mr Snowdon, that it is the Finance Committee and the Committee for Tourism and Economic Development that are progressing this and that was, I believe, a Resolution of P&F. As to your questions as to a date, I think I have just outlined that we are very much tied to Guernsey's timeline and until Guernsey publish a timeline, I really would not like to commit to our own timeline.

1775 **The President:** Thank you, Mr Dent. Does any other Member wish to ask Mr Dent a supplementary question?

The Greffier: Yes sir, Mr Roberts.

1780 **The President:** Mr Roberts.

Mr Roberts: Your Excellency, Mr President, fellow States' Members, would the Chairman agree that the recovery plan may afford great opportunity to reshape our air services completely and improve the economy for all and what dialogue is going on with P&R and Economic Development at the moment?

1785 Thank you.

1790 **Mr Dent:** I would agree with you, Mr Roberts, that there is no dialogue going on with P&R at the moment. I think Guernsey is very much concentrating on Covid-19 and, as we have noted at the last States' Meeting, the matter of the PSO, the 1948 Agreement and all these sorts of things have been put on hold and I think Guernsey is now rising to the challenge of the mechanism for its own recovery plan and, as I have just said, we need to be in line, in step and working with Guernsey on this matter. It is very important.

Thank you.

1795 **Mr Roberts:** Thank you, Mr Dent.

The President: Thank you, Mr Dent. Anybody else wish to ask a question, Mr Greffier?

The Greffier: No sir. No other Members have indicated a wish to raise a question.

GP model for Alderney

1800 **The President:** Thank you very much indeed. So we will now move on to Mr Snowdon's final question for Mr Dent. Alderney's Policy & Finance Committee has approved the terms of reference for a review to determine what sort of GP model the Island both needs and wants. Professor Wilson's 2017 Report listed four options, could the Chairman explain what is happening with bringing in any new models? Mr Dent.

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1810 **Mr Dent:** Mr President, Mr Snowdon, as you will remember the Wilson Report left us with four options for primary care. First was a two-practice private model; the second was a single-practice private model; the third was a single-practice, States-supported model similar to the independent contractor model of general practice in the UK and the fourth was a single-practice States-run model involving States-employed medical, nursing and administrative staff.

Professor Wilson called for more detailed modelling. In December 2019, P&F Committee resolved to approve terms of reference for a review to determine the target operating model for health care and invite Professor Wilson to undertake the work. Unfortunately, the work could not be undertaken before the Covid-19 restrictions were imposed. It is our intention to get work done when the restrictions allow Professor Wilson or his colleagues to come to Alderney.

1815 Thank you.

The President: Thank you. Mr Snowdon, do you have a question?

1820 **Mr Snowdon:** Just a very brief one. Has Mr Dent got any time line for that to happen? Thank you.

The President: Mr Dent.

1825 **Mr Snowdon:** If I knew what the timeline for Covid-19 was, I could answer you Mr Dent.

The President: Thank you. We now move onto Mr Snowdon's ... Sorry, were there any other Members that wanted to ask a question?

1830 **The Greffier:** No sir. Nobody has indicated.

Re-opening of the commercial quay

The President: Thank you. So moving on now to Mr Snowdon's questions for Mr McKinley in his role of the General Services Committee, the first question is as follows: could the Chairman of General Services Committee confirm when the re-opening of the commercial quay will take place so people who may not be very mobile can safely fish when the harbour is not operating?

1835 Mr McKinley.

Mr McKinley: Thank you. Your Excellency, Mr President, fellow States' Members, the commercial quay was closed to everyone, other than essential workers, in early March, when lockdown was imposed. The main reasons were to prevent people trying to enter the Island illegally and it worked. On average, two vessels a day have tried to come into Alderney since the middle of March. They have all, bar one, been sent away. One had to remain because there were problems on the boat, but the person did not come ashore.

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I might say that the harbour office is open from six o'clock in the morning until 10 o'clock at night and do a wonderful job in that respect. It is partly for the same reason that the pontoon was not put in place. I and many others have received numerous complaints from local recreational fishermen and, as a casual fisherman myself, I understand their concerns.

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Even commercial fishermen had a problem actually, entering the commercial quay to access their boats at the start of all of this. They now have their own private keys. Since mid-March I have had a number of meetings with the harbour master and Mr Dent and Mr Gentle have joined me on occasions and I should say that we have managed to resolve a number of small issues, one of which I hope will include what I was trying to say, Mr Dent, in answer to Mr Snowdon's question, is that we are proposing free moorings for any boats visiting us from the Bailiwick. We will be discussing that at the General Services Committee meeting next week.

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I have a good relationship with the Harbour Master and we are working on a possible interim solution for fishermen on the commercial quay. Access before eight o'clock in the morning and after five o'clock at night, during working days, and access at any time on Saturdays and Sundays. We have not got to that point yet and I hope we will get to that within the next week or so and possibly we will move towards opening on days when no essential work on the commercial quay, no essential boat work or whatever it may be, for when there are days when it

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1860 is normally closed, but perhaps could be open. That would be the final solution. I hope that answers Mr Snowdon's question.

The President: Well Mr Snowdon, do you have a question arising out of that answer?

1865 **Mr Snowdon:** Yes, thank you, sir. Just with Mr McKinley kindly saying about free moorings in Alderney, will there also be free moorings for Alderney boats going into Guernsey? Thank you.

The President: Mr McKinley.

1870 **Mr McKinley:** You will have to sort that out with Guernsey. I will try and see if we can do something about it but it is not something that we have considered at this point.

The President: Thank you, Mr McKinley. Does any other Member have a question to put to Mr McKinley?

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The Greffier: No sir, it appears not.

Mr Roberts: I sent a message actually – Steve Roberts.

1880 **The Greffier:** Literally it has just come through now, Mr Roberts.

Mr Roberts: Thank you. Sir, I would like to address this further question to Mr McKinley, while understanding Island-wide Covid closures, would the Chairman Mr McKinley agree that the permanent closure of this public utility, as I have been told, would be unlawful and unconstitutional as grandfathers' rights do exist and I was told it was permanent?

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The President: Mr McKinley, can you answer that?

1890 **Mr McKinley:** That is not true. We are having negotiations and I am hopeful that we will be able to resolve something. I am not aware that it is permanent. I am sure it is not.

Mr Roberts: Thank you, Mr McKinley.

The President: Thank you. Does any other Member wish to ask Mr McKinley a question?

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Mr Jean: Please; if I could sir.

The President: Yes please, Mr Jean.

1900 **Mr Jean:** Is the Chairman aware that, in an effort to save Civil Service overtime and inconvenience for the Civil Service, that it is possible to buy a satnav piece of equipment that can be taken home with one of the officers, which show the boats and where they are going and the names of the boats and if any of them would be headed towards Alderney Harbour?

1905 I would imagine such a gadget, if it was purchased, would save a lot of this overtime from six in the morning until 10 o'clock at night, that I am hearing about. If that is so, it should be looked into and not only should it be looked into, the piece of equipment should be purchased and the States of Alderney could be starting to save some money?

The President: Thank you. Well, Mr McKinley, can you answer this question?

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Mr McKinley: All I can say is thank you very much Mr Jean, we will look into it. I am sure the harbour office will be delighted to have fewer hours in the day, they are working – what is it? – 16 hours at the moment, which is a lot of work. They are not all there together all of those times, but they are there most of the middle of the day, mid-morning to mid-afternoon.

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Mr Jean: Thank you very much.

The President: Does anybody else wish to ask Mr McKinley a question?

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The Greffier: No sir. No others have indicated.

Annual mooring checks – tender process

The President: Thank you very much indeed, we will now move onto Mr Snowdon's second question for Mr McKinley. Have local divers been asked to tender for the yearly mooring checks, therefore keeping public money being spent in the local economy? Is this a committee decision or operational?

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Mr McKinley: I am not quite sure what you mean by operational but it is not a committee decision, it was a decision made long before I became a member of this committee. As you will know, work on the breakwater is considered essential and is paid for by the States of Guernsey, whereas work on the moorings is classified as important and is paid for by us.

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There was a time when local divers worked with the Guernsey divers and then moved on to work on the moorings. This often led to delays at the moorings because, quite often, the work on the breakwater took a long time and so work on the breakwater did not start until some time after that.

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So it was decided, I am not sure by whom though, that a team from England should be invited to check the 120-odd moorings; the rented moorings to local boats and visiting boats. To much surprise, the work was completed in half the time, less than 14 days, almost half the time that it took the local moorings. Even more surprisingly it was completed at about half the price. The price is commercially sensitive, so I cannot tell you; but I know for a fact that is true.

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So we were saving money and we were getting the work done a lot faster. As you may know that work on the States' breakwater is currently in progress and the work on the moorings began this morning. The UK team will also undertake underwater repairs to a large post, which supports the pontoon. I hope this answers your question sir.

The President: Do you have a supplementary question, Mr Snowdon?

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Mr Snowdon: Yes, thank you, sir. Just pointing out Mr McKinley's reply, would Mr McKinley agree that the local boys had restricted hours, where the people that were coming in to do the work were working not quite but nearly 24/7 to get the job done and that there was a proposal by the local team a couple of years ago. Was there any response?

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Thank you.

Mr McKinley: I am not aware of a proposal a couple of years ago and all I can say is that the England team, the UK team, are doing extremely good work. They were faster than the local team.

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The President: Thank you. Mr Greffier, does any other Member have a question for Mr McKinley?

The Greffier: No Members have indicated, no sir.

Victoria Street – possible closure to assist businesses

1960 **The President:** Thank you. So now we will move on to Mr Snowdown's final question for Mr McKinley. Seeing businesses are now allowed to operate as long as they follow social distancing, should Victoria Street be closed during some hours to allow businesses to overflow into the street, whether pavement or road? This could create extra capacity and a buzz in Town? Mr McKinley.

1965 **Mr McKinley:** Yes, I assume that when you refer to businesses, you are talking about restaurants and cafés. I cannot envisage any retailers requesting permission to work on the pavements or on the road. So my answer refers just to cafés and restaurants.

1970 With regard to them, starting from the bottom of Victoria Street, we have Jack's Brasserie, which has its own outside seating area. We have The Georgian, which has its own garden area. We have the chippy in Olivier Court, which could also have seats outside if needed, and we have the Adventurers' Rest, which is about to open again – not the bar, but part of it is going to open hopefully in the next few weeks – that also has an outside area. Bumps also has an outside area as well, a large garden. The only three that do not, as far as I know, are PJ's, Nellie Gray's and Le

1975 Pesked and I am not sure whether they would want to have seats outside. If they did, those seats outside would be on a slope and the chairs and tables would be slightly unstable.

With regard to boost to numbers, we are hoping to get visitors from within the Bailiwick but the number is unlikely to be any greater than the routine number that appears during the tourist season on normal years. So that is about all I can say sir. Personally, I do not think we should

1980 close Victoria Street for a long period. I do not know what he is suggesting, what sort of period he is suggesting. I think that we could do what we do occasionally during Alderney Week, and close it for shorter periods and I think perhaps we should also, instead at closing maybe one or two other streets, perhaps Olivier Street. I think we are going to discuss this in more detail at the GSC meeting this coming Tuesday. That is all I can say sir.

1985 **The President:** Thank you. Mr Snowdon. Further question?

Mr Snowdon: Only to say I thought General Services made a resolution last year. Just interested if the same resolution was going to be made this year and slightly extended, but I

1990 think it is probably too early for Mr McKinley to say what his Committee Members may be thinking. Thank you.

The President: Can you answer that question Mr McKinley?

1995 **Mr McKinley:** I did not think there was a question in that but yes I thought I had answered it in what I said earlier. Yes, the street is closed occasionally during Alderney Week, but that is for special occasions like the Alderney Parade and other such things. But we would have to consult with shop owners and others and you know there is a problem about delivering to stores, delivering mail and delivering post and delivering newspapers and all that sort of thing. Vehicles

2000 would have to access Victoria Street at some stage during the day.

The President: Thank you, Mr McKinley. Has anybody else indicated, Mr Greffier, that they would like to put a question to Mr McKinley?

2005 **The Greffier:** Not at this stage, no sir.

The President: Thank you very much indeed. I think Mr Snowdon that completes your list of questions.

**Updates from Alderney Representatives
to Guernsey States of Deliberation**

2010 **The President:** We now have a question from Mr Dent and this is to both our Alderney Representatives in the States of Deliberation. Could the Alderney Representatives briefly summarise their activities in the States of Guernsey since the last Meeting of the States of Alderney? Now I do not know, Mr Snowdon or Mr Roberts, who would like to go first?

2015 **Mr Snowdon:** Who would you prefer sir?

The President: I have no preference Mr Snowdon, the choice is yours.

2020 **Mr Snowdon:** Okay, I will go first then. Thank you for the question, Mr Dent. Just to outline briefly, on 20th May the States of Deliberation sat and they also sat again. I will just go through, there was an update from the States' Trading Supervisory Board with Deputy Peter Ferbrache. I asked him a question regarding the PSO, basically if that process should go on or basically be put aside. He seemed quite keen that the PSO process regards to Aurigny's interest should carry on. So I think we need to be aware that States' Trading Supervisory Board are quite keen on that and, personally, I am a little bit concerned about that.

2025 We also have the Alderney Property Tax that went through. As we know, that will give Alderney a chance to tweak the property tax if they want to. We also have the Human Tissue and Transplantation (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law approved as well. I believe there is an option out of that if people did not want to be part of, basically donating their parts for medical use in regard to someone that may be desperately in need of that, organ transplants.

2030 We also had the Energy Policy, which was approved. Unfortunately, it did not actually refer to Alderney's tidal resources, only I think it was said by one of the Deputies at the time that they may be keen to plug in to a tidal way. I think they were referring to Atlantis' Raz Blanchard project, but we have not got any updates about how that project is getting on. So at the moment they are very concentrating that tidal is not one of the things for them. However, if the opportunity did arise, I think they would be looking into it. We will just have to assume those opportunities do arise and do give that a little bit of a push.

2035 Regarding the recovery plan that Mr Dent was talking about earlier in the questions, I did email Gavin St Pier a couple of days ago to ask how does Alderney come to the table with the Bailiwick recovery plan and our input? The reply I seemed to get back was that unfortunately no dialogue has taken place to date.

2040 I would emphasise I think, as a States, we do need to get around that table and do that pretty sharpish. So I think we need to make contact with Policy & Resources and try and fix up some sort of meeting, what Members are going to be inputting to that to make sure that we have a part of that process, because we will be looking at basically funding our share of that, whatever the taxation is, to pay for the enormous debts coming across. So I think we should really get in contact with Gavin St Pier from P&F to see how we can input that and I would say the sooner the better on that issue.

2045 That is just a very broad summary sir, but I am happy to answer any questions Members may have.

The President: Thank you, Mr Snowdon.
Mr Dent, do you have a question for Mr Snowdon?

2055 **Mr Dent:** No, I am fine thanks, thank you very much.

The President: Thank you. Does any other Member have a question for Mr Snowdon?

2060 **The Greffier:** No sir. No one has intimated a wish to speak.

The President: Thank you very much indeed. Now Mr Roberts please.

Mr Roberts: Thank you very much, sir.

2065 We had a Meeting on the 20th, that was adjourned on the 24th May. Then we had another one on 3rd June. I think it was the fourth Meeting in as many weeks. It is a good job we are not going down to Guernsey, else we would not have seen our families for 12 days at least. So I am really glad that actually we are holding them remotely because the pressure on us away from our families for that amount of time, four times in as many weeks, would have been huge for me. Anyway ...

2070 Yes, the human transplant tissue, I spoke on that. I spoke in favour of that new legislation as I have seen organ donation shortages first-hand in my own home, unfortunately. People and children die every day waiting for organs, so this legislation will definitely save lives and I totally support it and so did Mr Snowdon.

2075 We also, on the carry-on Meeting, we had a memorial for Vice-Admiral Sir John Coward, which was a very good speech on that. We had the emergency powers, we had the States of Guernsey Energy Policy, which Mr Snowdon has mentioned. We did the review of the jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical court, we had minor changes to Document Duty and we also had the asbestos debate and there was a *sursis motivé* to actually delay that, but it got overturned overwhelmingly.

2080 That was about it, actually. What I would say to just back what Mr Snowdon said, and I have seen the email to Deputy St Pier, the dialogue really does need to start happening soon, especially with our recovery plan. Really I would like to see our leaders in Alderney really exploring dialogue, because there is the complaint in Alderney that dialogue has been short on the ground.

2085 I would also like to say that Economic Development would like to talk with Alderney, because they have had no dialogue and they have intimated they would like a meeting, just this week. And that is about it. It has been a good few Meetings. Not a lot to do with Alderney. They passed the Property Tax Law, for it to be transferred to Alderney – the Trojan Horse Law as somebody called it – we have got that now. Apart from that, the biggest thing for me was the organ transplant, because I felt very strongly and very personal with that. Apart from that, it is all going very well.

2090 Thank you.

2095 **The President:** Thank you, Mr Roberts. Do you have a question, Mr Dent, for Mr Roberts?

Mr Dent: Just maybe Mr Roberts would actually agree that we have all tried to arrange meetings with P&R and indeed he has been part of it, but it has been P&R who has rebuffed us on previous occasions, would he not agree?

2100 **Mr Snowdon:** Well, I cannot agree. I think it is a case of not finding the blame, finding some solution. I think that we should approach P&R again and I think we should talk to Economic Development as soon as possible, because I want to see this airline thing sorted out. I would like to see us put out feelers and say, 'It is not us, we are asking you.' Then we will be in the right. Then we know we are right. Thank you.

2105 **The President:** Thank you Mr Roberts. Has anybody else indicated an intention to ask a question, Mr Greffier?

The Greffier: No sir.

2110 **The President:** I think in that event, that concludes this afternoon's business. Simply for me now to thank all of the Members for their participation and to invite the Greffier to conclude the Meeting please.

PRAYERS

The Greffier

The Assembly adjourned at 5.13 p.m.