



**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**STATES OF THE**

**ISLAND OF ALDERNEY**

**HANSARD**

**The Court House, Alderney, Wednesday, 21st July 2021**

*All published Official Reports can be found on the  
official States of Alderney website [www.alderney.gov.gg](http://www.alderney.gov.gg)*

**Volume 9, No. 8**

**Present:**

**Mr William Tate, President**

**Members**

Mr Bill Abel

Ms Annie Burgess

Mr Kevin Gentle

Mr Rhys Jenkins

Mr Boyd Kelly

Mr Graham McKinley, OBE

Mr Alexander Snowdon

**The Greffier of the Court**

Mr David Knight

**Business transacted**

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## States of Alderney

*The States met at 2.30 p.m. in the presence of  
Lieutenant G T Workman RN (Rtd), a representative of  
His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of the Bailiwick of Guernsey*

[THE PRESIDENT *in the Chair*]

### **PRAYERS**

*The Greffier*

### **ROLL CALL**

*The Greffier*

### **Thank you to members of the community listening on the radio**

**The President:** Well, before we proceed with the Business of the States, firstly, may I express my thanks to the members of the community who responded to the request that they listen to today's meeting on the radio. The reason for that being that in order to hold this meeting this afternoon, in a safe manner, it is necessary that we have social distancing measures; that we wear masks, apart from when the Members are speaking, if that is their wish, and all the windows in the room are open.

A risk assessment was carried out and the decision was that if it was at all possible then the business of Government should go ahead, and that is exactly what we are doing, but we are doing it safely to ensure the safety of all the people in here.

Even with the windows open it is extremely hot, so if any Member would like to divest themselves of their outer garment then please do.

### **Procedural**

**The President:** Now, before we deal with the Items on the Billet, I think it is important, because this again is yet another example of how we are having to adapt our lives in responding to the COVID virus, so what we are going to do today is to vary slightly the way in which we deal with the Items on the Billet. I can inform you that a report has been presented by Mr Abel, who is the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee. That report has been submitted subject to Rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure, and Rule 19.1(c) says that:

Wherever possible, [the report should be] submitted in writing to the President and the Greffier not less than four clear days before the States Meeting.

Now, I have been made aware of the contents of the report that Mr Abel intends to give and I am satisfied that it was not possible in these circumstances for him to comply with the four clear day proviso, therefore I am satisfied that it is entirely appropriate for him to give you that report.

For the benefit of listeners and for the Members, Rule 19.3 provides:

After a report under paragraph (1) is presented, any member may offer a personal opinion on [the contents of] the report and may ask a question relating to the content of that report.

25 Now, because Mr Abel is going to make an extremely important statement through his report this afternoon, I propose that we take at this stage Item V on the Billet, which is Questions and Reports, and I would propose to split those two so that the Question remains where it is in Item V and the report will be dealt with before any of the other Items. So that is how we propose, in these unusual circumstances, to meet our responsibilities.

**Convener's Report of the People's Meeting  
held on 14th July 2021**

30 **The President:** I think now, before we move to Item I, I need to ask Ms Burgess for her Report on the People's Meeting.

**Ms Burgess:** Thank you, Mr President, fellow States Members.

35 Obviously the Convener was myself, Ms Burgess, assisted by the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance. States Members present was seven, excluding myself as Convenor, public members was seven, press four and apologies were given by Mr Tate, the President and Mr Roberts and Mr Snowdon who were in Guernsey on States matters.

**The President:** Thank you very much indeed, Ms Burgess.

## Billet d'État for Wednesday, 21st July 2021

### V. Questions and Reports – One report

*Item V.*

*The following report was received from Mr Bill Abel, Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee:*

*Report on the current COVID situation.*

**The President:** Mr Abel, over to you.

40 **Mr Abel:** Mr President, thank you, colleagues.

I will partly dispense with my face mask as my glasses keep steaming up so I cannot actually see. But in terms of risk profile, Mr President, you pointed out that we are more than two metres apart and we are taking cognisance of the guidelines.

45 With regard to my Report, Mr President, the current situation: the Island, although locked down twice, as part of the Bailiwick over the last 15 months has been protected by the decisions of the Civil Contingences Authority (CCA) and has been fortunate that up until now we have only had one case of COVID on the Island. However, as of 16th July, as a result of an apparent superspreader event on the Island, it was rocked by the rapid increase in COVID cases from three on Friday through to the current level of 27, of which 25 relate to the apparent superspreader event. Public Health, Island Medical and our Welcome Teams have carried out over 800 tests over 50 the last few days and it is probable that infections have plateaued, but that as yet is to be fully determined.

55 In the process of testing, track and trace and people symptomatic with conditions, the 27 cases were identified, but over 50 people, mainly the younger working members of the community, are in isolation, leaving businesses and public services with a limited ability to operate. The community is understandably angry, with many frightened by the rapid increase in COVID cases; our younger working members' livelihoods are threatened and the profitability of our businesses are also threatened.

60 'Why?', you may ask. It is believed by many that it is as a result of the CCA introducing the untested blue traveller class from 1st July.

65 Looking back over the previous 15 months, travel to the Island and even between islands had been restricted, and only on 23rd April was the first phase of category travel with testing and isolation requirements introduced; the second phase of that was introduced on 14th May. On 21st May the concept of opening up the Bailiwick to no testing or isolation conditions was tabled and was being matched to the proposed Red, Amber and Green system being tabled in the UK.

70 As we know, the UK has obviously moved up and down over many months and we are still not aligned exactly with what is happening in the UK. However, for ourselves, based on some of the current conditions in the UK, it was determined that on 1st July untested, two by two – which is two jabs with two weeks – Blue Travellers would be allowed with bubbled children and other travellers would continue to be subject to category testing and isolation which, with the majority of the UK currently being at Category 4 means that those Category 4 people are tested on day one of arrival, after day seven, and in 14 days isolation until a negative 13-day test. Testing has not been removed for more risky travellers.

75 The vaccination programme: this commenced on 17th December last year and has proceeded well, with over 93% percent of the over-50s double vaccinated and over 78% of the 18 years and

over double vaccinated. However, this represents less than 60% of the under 50s double vaccinated.

To address the 1st July decision the CCA, following advice by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Cell (STAC), of which Public Health and other medical staff from across the Bailiwick are members, in addition the CCA considered the high level of double vaccinations of over-50-year-olds who are considered to have a higher likelihood of hospitalisation and would be a threat to the ability of the Bailiwick's capability in terms of their medical teams and hospitals. In addition they considered that the level of double vaccinations 50- to 18-year-olds was also at a proportionate level. At the time, which is more than two weeks ago, the decision was made to lift travel restrictions further with no testing of doubled vaccinated Blue Travellers, as they are called, but also continued with on-arrival category testing of other travellers.

So to summarise, the current situation is that two by two Blue Travellers are allowed to enter the Island without testing, as everybody knows, but also the non-two plus two vaccinated people still have to be tested as was there before, and that is the risk profile that had been adopted.

I would like to highlight that the CCA is not a limited political group of five with a representative from Sark and Alderney and as that group they make all the decisions. That group is supported by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group, Public Health, the Guernsey Civil Service, Sark and Alderney Civil Service representatives, the Law Officers, the Bailiff and, more importantly, the Crown Procureur and/or the Comptroller, whose role is there to question the decisions made by the CCA in terms of balance and proportionality. So it is not a seven-person team that is sitting there making the decisions, it is supported, broadly, by all of the necessary services and technical skills and advice before making any of its decisions.

As we stand at the moment, to be considered in terms of the science, as Dr Brink would tell us, the risk profile of Blue non-tested travellers and the risk profile of tested and post-isolated category travellers, as they have termed it, are similar. In terms of vaccinations, I mentioned there that over 93% of over-50s are double vaxxed and over 78% of over-18s are also double vaxxed.

In terms of transmissibility – this one is always a problem with all the S's in it, to be honest with you, Mr President – I beg your pardon, in terms of trans ... transmi...

**The President:** Transmissibility!

**Mr Abel:** Thank you, President.

These numbers are not definitive at the current time as it is considered to be reduced with both one jab and more with two jabs. There is still a lot more work to do and a lot more to understand, both on the Island and in the Bailiwick, in terms of the transmission of the virus.

One of the questions that has been put to everybody, and is something for us to always remember: can you still catch the virus and get sick if you are vaccinated? We have always been told that you can still get sick and you can catch the virus. The level of vaccination we have, as I think we all understand by now, improves with a single jab but certainly with a double jab you do not get as sick and the likelihood of you being in hospital is also seriously reduced, which has been an important part of the decisions that the CCA has made following a lot of the work that Dr Brink and her team have done in terms of modelling the liability or the likelihood of the hospital system and medical services being overwhelmed.

In terms of our Island population, which is also part of our risk profile, the Island population, shortly before the whole lockdown was by e-census some 203 people as a number, but we have seen over the last year that we have had a lot of people coming into the Island from the UK and other parts. They have bought in and are living in properties which has helped our economy and has been of benefit to us. In addition, over the last few weeks, starting with when the category travel was introduced, further people have come in and second home owners have also taken the opportunity to come along and help our economy as well.

In addition, over the last few weeks, with the introduction of Blue Traveller testing, the number of visitors we have had has increased and that has been beneficial to the Island but when you

consider we now have probably well over 2,500 people on the Island, the overall risks in terms of the virus increase.

130 If I look at the discussion that is still very much out there, what is the new normal? It is obvious that people have not fully assessed or understood what the new normal means, and certainly with myself and my wife we debated it at length and also I think it is still something the Bailiwick as a whole has to understand and appreciate as we go forward, but, from my perspective, the new normal means we can no longer rely on being protected by our closed borders, we can no longer  
135 be a fortress. From the point of view of most of us here, we would actually like the borders to be open safely, and that is understood. It also means that businesses must be more diligent in terms of hygiene, sanitisation, space and crowded events. It means we all have to be responsible and consider every situation with regard to being too close to people, the impact of closed spaces and the impact of crowds. We can no longer expect to jump into space and expect that we will be  
140 caught. We must consider what our actions mean, particularly in terms of others, and the recent apparent superspreader event is a sad result of not everybody considering what it means. It is likely if these responsibilities are not embraced that we will find ourselves in the same place as we are today, immaterial of how much testing we do at the borders. All of the above I would ask people to consider if we want to return to our feeling of well-being that we have been entitled to  
145 over many months, and many years, as Islanders.

It is essential that the Island is a safe place to be and it will encourage people to come to our Island, this will boost the economy and it will at last allow families to meet up on a face-to-face basis. I had a comment some while ago, Mr President, by somebody that Teams or Zoom is adequate for families – it is not. I am sure a lot of us here and a lot of those listening will agree  
150 with that. It is a hard decision to allow more people to visit us and our Island but it was a big consideration by the CCA as well, the mental well-being of all people across the Bailiwick.

The next steps: remember that we are a small part of the Bailiwick, it is a very important part to us and I am proud to represent the Island and be on the CCA. I am impressed at the extensive support that my Guernsey colleagues provide for Sark and ourselves here in Alderney. My view  
155 would be, others may differ, that we cannot survive without being a part of the Bailiwick. We get tremendous support from them; we have shared services, which we complain about, but over the last 15 months we have certainly been well served by the Bailiwick and its services.

Where do we stand now and what do we need to have considered, Mr President? Certainly there has been a lot of discussion around not testing blue travellers coming in. There is a derogatory term being used at the moment, Mr President, about Smurfs but that is a little bit  
160 unfair when you refer to blue travellers. We have discussed as a P&F and also as a community the reintroduction of testing at our borders. That will require a huge level of resources. However, it is apparent that we can move to pre-travel testing and that has been proposed and tabled to the CCA, actually just before this particular States meeting, and I will read out an email that I have  
165 received in the last few minutes, 'Pre-travel testing is obviously the first thing that we need to have in place. One of the things that has been most confusing over the last few days are the whole isolation rules and what they mean.'

Again, I get confused and I know everybody else gets confused about when you are vaccinated how do you isolate? Also, there is a lot of discussion around the younger generation who are at  
170 lower risk, even before jabs, of being infected with the virus, of why do they have to isolate as much as everybody else? I would only remind people that the virus has a 14-day period, the jab really prevents it from being transmitted and also minimises the way you get sick. To assume that because you are younger and more resilient that your isolation period should be any less, that is unlikely to change. Again it is under review, but my understanding is that a bug does not really  
175 work in shorter periods if you are younger. It is a 14-day apparent period until you can be infective, and even beyond the 14 days we have seen in the past.

One of the areas that has been discussed and raised by Members and also by the community is we really need to have a blueprint, as we have in the past, for living with COVID because we

180 need to discuss, understand it and adopt the principles inside whatever that blueprint brings forward.

From the briefing this week, that the CCA gives, we are looking at the *Alderney Press* and also the community sending questions to the briefing panel of the CCA, and that has been raised with the CCA.

185 Just also to raise with everybody and remind everybody, business support is still in place and if businesses can justify support they will be considered for that support from the public purse, and that has been the case right the way over the last 15 months. Normal income support for people is in place as far as sickness, but again we need further clarity as regards to support when you are in isolation, that is not fully clear to myself and it is being followed up. One of the things to remember is that the furlough scheme provided extensive support to our community over the  
190 last 15 months.

Mr President, the situation is not easy, it is not simple, but I would ask the community to stand back and think about the support we have had over the last 15 months. Across the Bailiwick we have done well. And now to start looking across the small channel between us and Guernsey and believing we have been let down, I do not think that is a thing to consider.

195 And again, the positive response that I have had following the request from Members for me to put a question to the CCA in terms of reintroduction of travel testing of some description has been received and I would like to read to you what I am allowed to say in terms of the rules of the CCA. The email reads, 'I have raised the concerns of this States and this community to the Civil Contingencies Authority. Without divulging the confidential discussions had today I can confirm  
200 the CCA is actively looking at the practical, additional measures for the Bailiwick's borders that could be implemented quickly. No decision has been made on that and the CCA is due to meet again tomorrow, after which I will be able to update you as regard to the CCA's decision.'

Thank you, Mr President.

205 **The President:** Thank you, Mr Abel.

Maybe I can be permitted to add one thing, it is a point of information really. You mentioned the Scientific and Technical Advisory Cell, Dr Simmons is a member of that cell isn't she?

210 **Mr Abel:** That is correct and it is quite important for the community to understand and consider that. It is not, as you rightly point out, Mr President, something that lives somewhere else. We are a part of it and contribute to it and are listened to, Mr President, as you will fully understand.

**The President:** Thank you, Mr Abel.

215 Now, who would like to speak or who would like to express a personal opinion about the Report? Mr Jenkins, if you would come up to the microphone please. Just for the benefit of the people listening, Mr Jenkins is having to sit on the front row in the Public Gallery so that we can make sure that he is socially distanced.

220 **Mr Jenkins:** Sir, colleagues, just really to say thank you to Mr Abel for a comprehensive Report. I thought I was going to have some questions and they have all been answered, so thank you, and thank you for all your work on our behalf.

**Mr Abel:** Thank you, much appreciated.

225

**The President:** Thank you, Mr Jenkins.  
Ms Burgess.

**Ms Burgess:** Thank you.



230 As I am properly social distanced, as Mr Abel has done, I am just going to remove my mask because I will be wearing glasses and they steam up, as we all know.

The reason why I want to make a comment is that I do actually want to thank Mr Abel because I think that was very comprehensive and, like Mr Jenkins, he has actually answered a lot of my concerns and questions that I was going to address.

235 But I would like to take this opportunity to basically say some things out loud. I would like to, if it is allowed, applaud what has been happening within our local medical teams, the Welcome Teams at the Harbour and at the Airport, the emergency services, all the first front-line workers, because when you actually look at the numbers Mr Abel pointed out, 800 tests, that is a remarkable amount of testing by a small community, and personally I just find it extraordinary and again it comes home to us how well we respond as a community.

240 I am also really aware of the concern and anger within our community. We are listening and we do sympathise, and to be honest we understand because we are part of this community as well. I think we have not been quite clear enough with our sharing of information or even the process that we go through to make changes and respond to the situation. Personally I thought we were doing enough with our press releases, the mail drops and the radio but I do realise now that we have not because the amount of misunderstanding within the community about the working relationships between the States of Alderney, Guernsey and the CCA, Public Health and all the other elements that Mr Abel so well put, we just have not done enough and I apologise that it has caused such anger and distress within the community.

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250 Originally I was going to ask a question of Mr Abel about testing on arrival but he has responded well to that. However, as it has just become known to us that the CCA are also meeting tomorrow and he has raised the concerns that our special meeting with P&F made when we as a group requested that we would consider, if not testing on arrival, because we understand we are short-staffed and it is difficult, that at least testing before arrival and Mr Abel has made that very clear.

255 However, I just wanted to say it out loud and make a comment on it because if the CCA are meeting tomorrow I just want to add my weight to it, it is a personal comment and it is something I really think we need to look at and to enable us to actually have a say in that. So I appreciate Mr Abel has already done that but, as I say, I am just putting my voice in.

The other point was Mr Abel mentioned clarification of isolation rules for vaccinated or partly vaccinated. The reason why I am picking up on this particular comment, and this will probably be a question because we are allowed one now, is that there appears to have been quite mixed messages coming from COVID tracing. I just want to give a quick example. Someone got hold of me to explain that after being traced as a direct contact of a single vaccine recipient they received their first negative test result. They called and emailed the appropriate department in Guernsey and were told no further tests were needed and they were free to go. However, a day later they were then actually given a different instruction and told they needed two more test results and isolation, and I have been told of similar mixed experiences and examples of this. So when we say a clarification of isolation rules, I would like to ask Mr Abel if we can make that point *again* because the inconsistency of the message is causing concern within our community, and with that in mind I would like a clearer, consistent message to come out when this information is needed.

270 Thank you.

**The President:** Do you want to ask a question, Mr Abel?

275 **Mr Abel:** Yes, please, if I can.

Ms Burgess, thank you very much for the support and also the question, it is appreciated. Certainly there have been many confusing messages, and I would appreciate if you could maybe send me an email on that and I will certainly forward it to the authorities on the Bailiwick side.

Thank you for the question.

280

**The President:** Thank you, Mr Abel.

Who would like to speak next? Mr Snowdon.

**Mr Snowdon:** Thank you, Mr President, and thank you, Mr Abel, for the statement.

285 I think it is very important that we are having this sort of debate and views being put forward because it is an extremely important matter, and I thank the President for allowing Mr Abel to make the statement a bit earlier in this debate.

290 What I seem to have concerns about is that the States of Alderney has been in the loop but sort of not in the loop, and we have had quite a number of meetings, I will go through that in a little while. I really do appreciate all the hard work in Guernsey and all the members of the CCA but it is quite hard for us to see what actually is coming out of the CCA, apart from the final results, which then go into the public domain but what has actually been potentially accepted or what has not been accepted, what has been put forward by the States of Alderney?

295 Unfortunately in the situation that we find ourselves in currently ... not only do we feel for the whole Island the impact on the quality of life: with us today wearing masks in this Chamber, the impact on the younger people, and I know there has been a little bit of debate about that already, and the impact on primary services. I think from the public's perception they did not quite realise that we would be moving into this situation so quickly and now we dealing with these repercussions.

300 If we go back into a short bit of the history of it I think Members know that we have – I do not think I am breaking anything that is confidential – but we have raised concerns really before this kicked off about the two jabs and two weeks protection. We did raise that a number of times and I believe that was put forward to the CCA and obviously Public Health would have given the advice accordingly. But I think we needed a little bit more information about why that was not taken into  
305 consideration or the decision was made.

Basically, it is a bit like homework, and I have said this before, it is like showing your workings out in maths, how you got there. I think Members should be able to see that and also members of the public should be able to see that. I think the CCA has done a wonderful job since this crisis has started but if you put the evidence on the table then hopefully Members can see and the  
310 community can see the working out of that and how that decision was made. For me that is an observation that Mr Abel could take back to the CCA.

On 1st July we actually had an emergency P&F meeting which was called over concerns being received about possible self-isolation requirements if or when COVID comes into Alderney. An email sent on 1st July that I actually sent to Members states, 'Thanks Bill. This is really a transfer  
315 service and Guernsey civil service should have done a risk assessment for Alderney. If the risk is too great then the CCA could bring in requirements for everyone entering Alderney to be tested. It is not too late to ask for this. Best wishes, Alex.' And I absolutely, 100%, am confident Mr Abel would have taken those thoughts forward.

320 However, I do not feel that we have had actually a response from the CCA. Please, it is not a criticism *at all* of the CCA but I think when we move forward – and as we know, this is going to be around for some time – it is understanding how those decisions are made so that the community understands how those decisions are made and potentially the impact of those decisions as well. It is a very hard situation to say in hindsight we should have done this or with hindsight we should have done that, but I just think if all parties were a bit more open and transparent with the  
325 situation which is evolving, that would be beneficial.

And just to touch on, I think Ms Burgess has highlighted it already, Alderney States Members raised concerns and observations recently on Monday 19th July and we gave a bit of a steer to Mr Abel which was basically requesting if the CCA – and I know we have been given an update  
330 already – would request for everyone coming into the Island to be tested before they depart into Alderney or actually arrive into Alderney, if we do have the resources to do that. I think with this current situation with unfortunately evidence of community seeding in Guernsey at a school, I think we will just have to see if they do have the resources for that but maybe testing before

actually coming to Alderney, I look forward to getting more clarification and hopefully that decision will be made by the CCA.

335 Also, highlighted quite a lot of the time as well is our young people who are being contact traced and then finding that they have got to do 14 days self-isolation which is obviously having a major impact on a number of services across the Island. Hindsight would say that we should have ... But we are in the situation that we are in now and really it would be for clarification if there is any shorter time to that 14 days for someone to contract trace rather than if they have  
340 not had the two jabs and they have not had the two weeks is there any way if they have a number of negative tests they would be allowed out before that 14 days or do they have to be isolated for 14 days because they have not got the full protection? Maybe a little bit of clarification on that if you are able to.

I think it really comes back to looking at what sort of bespoke stuff Alderney could have and taking that forward, and I do appreciate that has been happening, and then seeing how to deal with the situation, making sure the evidence is out there.

I think Ms Burgess and Mr Abel have already touched on this, but it is absolutely vital that the CCA hold some sort of conference, and I think they did actually try and request one on Monday with the public so they can have that direct input. I think it is planned for Friday but the sooner  
350 the better and I appreciate and thank Mr Abel for saying that members of the public will be able to submit questions beforehand.

This is obviously a moving situation but I would like to thank Mr Abel, all members of the CCA, all Public Health and everyone supporting and also all the hard work of the community in these challenging times and hopefully we will get out of this.

355 Thank you.

**The President:** Now, Mr Abel, there was at least a question in there.

**Mr Abel:** Only one, Mr President.

360

**The President:** I am going to say, yes, there was a question in there, if you would like to respond.

**Mr Abel:** Mr President, I will do as best as I can.

365 Mr Snowden is very good at putting embedded questions in his statements, if I can say that, Mr President, but again they are valid and appreciated.

Certainly the Policy and Finance Committee has debated this and had many discussions over the last few weeks and even more recently during the course of ... when I think what day it is it has been a long week already. (**The President:** Monday.) On Monday as well, and certainly then  
370 the points that he raised have been raised with the CCA and are being considered. In terms of one of your questions, if I can use that, my apologies, Mr President, the 14 days shorter isolation period, that has been raised with Dr Brink and she will no doubt come back to us. But, as I said, it is certainly understood that the period of 14 days is very much a ... I do not want to call it a benchmark, but it is a period considered to be when the virus is still active and you are quite likely  
375 to still get ill. As we were told, I think many months ago, with regard to that particular 14-day period, it is also not sacrosanct, they have seen people being affected up to, I think, I cannot remember now, certainly 18, if not 23 days, so it is a considered period where the risk profile is accepted to allow people to come out of isolation.

380 With regard to the double jabbed and single jabbed, there is still no evidence to show that that period can be shortened. Again, this is my understanding and Dr Brink, I think, will clarify that to people in the coming days, if not weeks, as that question will keep being asked. And it is a valid one because 14 days isolation, as some of us know, is not an easy thing to do and for younger people who are a little bit more socially active it must be extremely difficult and almost feel like you are being imprisoned.

385 Certainly we had one member of the public putting an email to ourselves saying she is there in a small room, cannot go out, locked up for 14 days. To say I sympathise for her does not help her at all because that must not be a very nice thing to do. The only benefits would be if you can still talk via Zoom, WhatsApp or whatever, but it must be like imprisonment to a certain extent, so that is certainly understood.

390 I take your point with regard to bespoke stuff for Alderney and keeping the Island informed. Certainly that has been ongoing and we have been fortunate when lockdown was lifted we came out a little bit earlier. I think we always like to have it a little bit earlier but it was a balanced decision supported by the CCA.

395 With regard to this week's CCA briefing, I have still got to get feedback, but certainly I would like to see that. I will push that again after this meeting. I would like to see that our press here gets an opportunity to ask questions of the briefing session. It may be to get a better overall result that, like in the past, there is a second briefing session where the public or certain members of the community, I think there was one with children more recently, and I would like to see something like that so that there are a number of questions that can be put to the CCA and they can do bit of homework beforehand. So, will we get that this Friday? I would not think so. Not because of any push back or whatever but more around the fact there is just too much to put on the table and to make something like that effective it would be good to have the questions beforehand that allow the public to also be able to get those across.

400 I think those are some of the questions that I have got, but again I do appreciate the comments made and some of those I will take away, if I can figure out what I have written down here!... to take forward for further discussions with the Committee as well as with the CCA.

I thank you for the questions.

**The President:** Thank you, Mr Abel.  
410 Mr Gentle.

**Mr Gentle:** Thank you, sir, colleagues, Mr Abel, thank you very much.

There is no question here, but like others before me I thank you and all others concerned for the evident hard work that has gone to get us where we are today.

415 I think CCA decisions are taken with the best possible will in the world, but the decision to open the borders, as they did on 1st July, would appear to the local public to be one where the CCA might have dropped the ball. I am not saying they have but it is how it appears. And the request from Mr Abel to the CCA regarding pre-travel testing is a part of starting a totally, that word again, 'bespoke' solution for Alderney, and will undoubtedly be welcomed by the public.

420 And for the benefit of everyone, States Members do care what is happening. It is affecting us as well. States Members are listening to the public and nine times out of 10 we actually agree with you, and I thank Mr Jenkins for those words because they were appended to an email he sent yesterday.

Thank you very much, sir.

425 **The President:** Thank you.  
And I think finally, Mr Kelly.

**Mr Kelly:** Thank you, sir, and colleagues.

430 Can I first start off, and I know Mr Abel has been thanked a number of times, but I will echo those thanks. Thank you for the work he is doing, thank you for facing the cannon, to use an expression, when he went on Quay FM and answered what I thought were on occasions unqualified and uncalled for comments. The fact that we do not care – rubbish! We do care. We live in this community. The fact that we have done nothing – wrong! We work long hours.

435 My comments are not said out of a sense of bravado, they are not out of a sense of complacency. As Mr Gentle just said, we live here, we live amongst the community. Some of the

people affected, it might be their businesses, some of the people affected because they have been quarantined are friends of mine so I know how they feel and I understand their feelings.

440 I am grateful for Mr Abel's work with the CCA. I accept communication on occasions has not been good but can he explain when a decision is made in the CCA, if he or any of the members of the CCA disagree with that decision, are they able to publicly express their disagreement? I know the answer to that, Mr Abel, but perhaps the public could do with being told what the answer is.

445 In relation to testing on arrival, it sounds an easy solution and it is an easy and obviously understandable desire once the borders have been relaxed all of a sudden we have some self-seeding but perhaps Mr Abel can tell us ... what was the expression you used? The superspreader event, are you able to say whether the superspreader event was brought here from across the waters or was it self-seeded, as the latest case in Guernsey is? If it is self-seeding, no matter what restraints we put on at the Airport either prior to getting here or once they have got here would it have made any difference to this latest outbreak?

450 I think the public need and understandably want some form of reassurance. I do not think putting in testing on arrival will work. Why not? Because if they come here and they test negative but then three or four days later they go down with the symptoms what do we do? If they get it and test positive what do we do? I understand the public's need to have the reassurance but if we are going to have testing I would suggest that it is prior to arrival, and it is perfectly possible because the Bailiwick insist on that with people coming in from Jersey, they have to prove negative tests.

460 It is a pity we are where we are. I would like to make one or two comments in relation to praising people, as my colleagues have said. We are fortunate in having an Island Medical Centre and a testing regime and a Welcome Team who, to put it crudely, sir, and I apologise for this, bust their guts in relation to ensuring the track and trace system works.

In relation to the latest outbreak today in Guernsey I would like to quote from Dr Brink:

Instances of community seeding are to be expected as we adjust to living with COVID but our robust contact tracing measures along with our high vaccination rate means we are well placed to minimise onward transmission.

465 I am not downplaying what it must be like to get the infection. I am not minimising what it must be like to be told, especially as the one person who emailed us all must be undergoing 14 days in a single flat, that must be hell on earth, I understand that, I am not downplaying it. But we have been guided to date by Dr Brink, we have fêted her and we have applauded her, quite rightly too, and her team, but all of a sudden we have got a problem so all of a sudden we are up in arms, or people are up in arms, and I think, sir, that is most uncalled for. We are fortunate that not all members of the community are being negative. We are fortunate in that the restaurant trade and retailers have been flexible enough and I thank and praise them for the work they are doing.

470 I promise that any decisions we have made have not been made on a commercial basis. Every decision that I made, personally made, has been made because I think it was the right thing to do for the community I am fortunate to live in.

Thank you, sir.

475 **The President:** Thank you.

Now, I think there was a question in there, Mr Abel, if you picked it up.

**Mr Kelly:** I think there were a couple, sir.

480 **Mr Abel:** Yes, Mr President, he did manage to sneak in at least two, I think.

**The President:** I did not hear the second one.

**Mr Abel:** It is an extended question then, Mr President.

485 **The President:** I think we will take it at that.

**Mr Abel:** Thank you.

490 With regard to the part of the question with regard to the CCA and whether it can share what is inside that, as I explained earlier on, the CCA does not just consist of seven members, it consists of a much bigger body and the important part of that, in my opinion, links to the presence of the Procureur and/or the Comptroller whose job it is to make sure that there is a balanced and proportionate decision. There is no doubt that the Crown's Law Officers do engage, have engaged, generally show us aid because they cannot fully feedback what happens inside the CCA, but their purpose there is to make sure that there is debate within the CCA, and again it is also part of the regulations and the law with regard to the CCA in how it is supposed to operate.

495 Everybody within the seven members who are part of the main committee there will and do put their opinions on the table. Those are debated, they are then balanced against technical and other advice by the support staff that are there and again the final decision is made on a vote. As with most committees, with people in it not everything is agreed by everyone, and I am sure that we can understand that. But again, that information is not put out there, it is contained within the CCA as part of its confidential minutes.

500 In terms of myself and also the members in that committee, and I am sure in most committees, once a decision is made, and if you understand the decisions and the balanced approach to those decisions my background and my ethics mean that I will support that decision no matter whether I was negative or positive because if we divide and break it up then that is not a good thing to see. So from my perspective, when a decision is made by committee everybody in that committee, no matter where they stood on it, should make sure that that is taken forward and handled to the best that the community can expect of us.

505 With regard to the other part of the question, if I may, the superspreader event – I am connecting that to the question on the CCA somehow, Mr President – with regard to the general thing on a superspreader event, and sadly I am learning a bit over the last few days, they obviously try to track down the index case within that particular event. As I understand, and as I mentioned earlier on, there is no clear index case as yet, but again, as we saw in Guernsey in the big outbreak in January of this year, it took them quite a while to get to an almost-index case in that case. Also you have to remember that when they do get to that index case there is no way they are going to make that public because it is really unfortunate if that individual is identified as the index case.

515 Again, I think Mr Snowdon also made the comment and it has also been a comment around here, we have to take responsibility for what we do. So when we are having a party, and I know it is difficult after a few bevies, I think the term would be, to remember to be a little bit more cautious, do not breathe all over your partners if you can and also not express yourself excessively in those things; difficult, and I am not too sure whether human nature will allow us to do anything different, but do try, think about others and we will not have these events and hopefully we will still be in a good place in the weeks and months ahead.

520 Thank you, Mr President.

525 **The President:** Thank you, Mr Abel.

The only remaining Member, Mr McKinley, do you wish to speak?

530 **Mr McKinley:** Not at great length, sir, just to congratulate Mr Abel and others on the hard work they are doing and have done, that includes the Chief Executive as well and members of the Alderney Civil Service and other people mentioned. We have learnt a great deal this afternoon. I am looking forward to knowing when the pre-travel testing will commence and if so will that give sufficient time for those who have to change their arrangements to pre-travel rather than testing on arrival.

535 That is all, sir.

**The President:** Mr Abel.

540 **Mr Abel:** Mr President, I can partly answer that, not out of the CCA but if I look at what has happened with regard to introduction of pre-travel testing for Jersey people they needed to get, as you rightly say, that message across to people to allow them time to organise where they needed to be, they introduced for Jersey travellers within a reasonable time arrivals testing, as we have seen before and, as soon as they can get enough time to get the message across for pre-travel testing to be in place, they implemented the law in terms of that. And I would suspect, probably a bit more than suspect, but I would expect, I think, that a similar process will follow. But it is a much broader area we are looking at, it may take a little bit more time but I do not fully know as yet.

Thank you, Mr President, and thank you, Mr McKinley.

550 **The President:** Thank you.  
That then will conclude that matter.

**I. Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision)  
(Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No.7) Regulations, 2021 –  
Not annulled**

*Item I.*

*The States of Alderney is asked not to annul "The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No.7) Regulations, 2021".*

**The President:** Can we now go back to Item I on the Billet please, Mr Greffier.

**The Greffier:** Yes, sir.

555 Item I is the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No.7) Regulations, 2021. The States of Alderney is asked not to annul the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No.7) Regulations, 2021. It is proposed by Mr Abel and seconded by Mr Snowdon.

560 **The President:** Now, Ms Burgess, if it saves you having to get up three times because we have got three lots of regulations to deal with, I think I am right in understanding there were no comments at the People's Meeting in relation to Items I, II and III.

**Ms Burgess:** Exactly, yes, there were no comments.

565 **The President:** Thank you.  
Now, dealing with Item I, Mr Abel, over to you.

570 **Mr Abel:** Mr President, just a little bit more background. In fact this is a bit more foreground, I think, in this case, Mr President. The Regulations (No. 8) have already been passed on 16th July, so these Regulations as they stand now, which is the Regulations related to (No. 7) are, if you want, no longer valid anyway. Again, there has been much discussion over the months about the 'not to annul' process that we have adopted. I think, Mr President, we have had some discussion this morning about whether we can make the process a lot more effective and perhaps at the end of this you would maybe like to make a comment, if can ask you the question, Mr President, with your indulgence.

575

580 With regard to Item I, this is the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick  
of Guernsey) (No.7) Regulations, 2021. I think we have heard the preamble many times and again  
the documentation is provided, both here and the details are also attached to the Billet and also  
on the website. I think the important one to look at here is that these Regulations came into force  
on 18th June and, as I mentioned there with regard to the 30 days post that, the new Regulations  
(No. 8) are already in place so have superseded these Regulations. But again, the Regulations deal  
with, in Part I, screening, assessment and powers to detain. In terms of Part II, they deal with  
miscellaneous and final information, then it covers the various powers that are in place under the  
585 law and required by the Regulations.

Mr President, in terms of Item I, I would like to ask the States of Alderney not to annul the  
Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No. 7) Regulations,  
2021.

Thank you.

590

**The President:** Mr Snowdon, you are going to second this Proposition?

**Mr Snowdon:** Happy to second, thank you.

595

**The President:** Would anybody like to speak on this Item?

I think in answer to your question to me, Mr Abel –

**Mr Abel:** If I may.

600

The President: – the way in which these resolutions are framed is a political issue and if this is  
brought before the States for a different way of doing it then it will be for the States to consider  
and vote upon. I recall it was a political decision taken some time ago and the background was to  
ensure that before Guernsey passed legislation on our behalf we have an opportunity to scrutinise  
it so that we can reflect the views of the Members here and of the community. It is an incredibly  
605 inelegant way of dealing with Propositions and I have been making that case for some  
considerable time and I am sure that we can find a less confusing way of achieving the same  
outcome.

**Mr Abel:** Thank you.

610

**The President:** Unless anybody proposes to vote against these Regulations ... Mr Greffier, I  
think they are carried.

**The Greffier:** They are carried, sir, thank you.

**II. Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision)  
(Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No.7) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021 –  
Not annulled**

*Item II.*

*The States of Alderney is asked not to annul “The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General  
Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No.7) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021”.*

615

**The President:** Item II, please.



**The Greffier:** Item II is the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No.7) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021. The States of Alderney is asked not to annul the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No.7) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021. It is proposed by Mr Abel and seconded by Mr Snowdon.

**The President:** Mr Abel.

**Mr Abel:** Thank you, Mr President.

Again, there is a preamble to this which can be read both here in the documentation and on the Government website. This, I think, if we had been in the current position a week ago when we had the People's Meeting, there certainly, Mr President, would have been a lot more discussion by both Members and very much the public. That can be understood considering the situation we now find ourselves in. However, if I may read the reason for this particular amendment, this particular amendment was introduced so that as of 1st July these amendments would provide for what is referred to here in the documentation as 'Blue Arrivals' or what I have used during the discussion today 'blue travellers' and they define what is a Blue Arrival traveller and how they reach the status of blue traveller and that is around, as we all know now, there must be two valid vaccinations of the person and it must have been done at least 14 days beforehand. So this particular amendment covers that, Mr President, and these Regulations came into force on 1st July.

Mr President, even though I am sure one or two Members are uncomfortable with the process we now find ourselves in, I would still ask Members to vote not to annul the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No.7) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021, as really the situation we find ourselves in is this amendment has actually already been superseded by Regulations (No. 8). Again, I would think that maybe there are questions from Members which are relevant, and again to vote against this really would be a nonsense, sadly, Mr President.

Thank you.

**The President:** Thank you.

Mr Snowdon, again you are seconding?

**Mr Snowdon:** Yes. Can I reserve my right to speak if that is okay? Thank you.

**The President:** Would anybody else like to speak?

Mr Gentle.

**Mr Gentle:** Sir, colleagues.

As Mr Abel says, this has now been superseded by (No. 8), but, yes, we do really need to see if changes can be implemented in the future to avoid this. I was sorely tempted, until I heard it had been superseded, to almost fire a shot across the barrels of the CCA by voting against but the information given by Mr Abel in a previous Report in this Chamber today with reference to asking the CCA for pre-travel testing means that I will be voting in favour of this Proposition, and certainly hope that I do not stand here next time looking to vote against.

Thank you.

**The President:** Ms Burgess.

**Ms Burgess:** Thank you, Mr President, fellow States Members.

Basically I am just echoing Mr Gentle's comments. I realise how difficult it felt, this vote, however, of course, we know that it actually came into force on 1st July 2021, so in itself this conversation is difficult to have but I just want to say it out loud. I said it before in our previous

670 comments and the reason why I am saying it out loud is just because I want it to be heard and I  
want it to be heard by an organisation like the CCA that the reservation is on the basis I would like  
to know and have it confirmed that they are considering our steer which we gave, as I say, from  
P&F last Monday to look at pre-travel testing.

I understand that my vote will have to be as it will be but I just want to say it out loud I would  
like to know that they are listening to us when we are talking about pre-travel testing.

675 Thank you.

**The President:** Would any other Member like to speak?

Mr Kelly.

680 **Mr Kelly:** Very briefly, sir. Perhaps Mr Gentle when he is chairing the Good Governance Group  
can bear in mind this rather clumsy system we are going through and perhaps we can come  
together with a way of preventing this happening next year.

Thank you, sir.

685 **The President:** Thank you very much.

Mr Snowdon.

**Mr Snowdon:** Thank you, President.

690 This is a tricky one because it really comes down to this Item here but it was passed when it  
was actually ... but this is the first time that we, in this Chamber, can talk about it.

I think maybe a comment to the Good Governance Group is that if we are bringing this stuff  
forward, and this Item is very serious potentially for implications, that if we are here I do not  
actually mind having a special States Meeting so the States of Alderney can have input publicly, I  
think that is absolutely appropriate and the public if we can have a People's Meeting before, we  
695 have done it the past, a special one before a special States Meeting, that would actually help with  
the decision making because this is such a major decision which is out of date but we have seen  
the repercussions of it that this Chamber, I feel, should be having some input. So I really make a  
plea to Mr Abel and the CCA to take that back and also the Good Governance Group, maybe you  
can look at this and actually approach CCA and Guernsey about this because I do think this is  
700 absolutely vital.

It also brings in another question that how long is the CCA going to have these rules over us?  
How long is this going to go on for? Unless we get bespoke resolutions when we need them from  
the CCA – and I appreciate they do try for us – but we are the States of Alderney Government. I  
just feel that sometimes – it is probably not the right wording – we should be flexing our muscles  
705 when necessary.

So that is really all I can say about that. We are where we are with this. I do not think we can  
actually vote against it because it is actually out of date! But in the future I think really there is no  
reason why we cannot have those urgent talks with Guernsey to see if this ongoing situation that  
we do have, and I do think we have fantastic input through the CCA as a rep on there, but let's try  
710 and get this a little bit more with the States of Alderney in sync and then we can have these  
debates properly and then the community can feed stuff to us before the States of Alderney make  
some sort of resolution that hopefully the CCA would take on board. So rather than being behind  
closed doors, let's try and get those doors open in the public interest would be my view on this  
ongoing matter because this cannot be the situation in years to come.

715 Thank you.

**The President:** Mr Abel, would you like to exercise your right to reply?

**Mr Abel:** Yes, please, Mr President, if I may.

720

**The President:** Please do.

**Mr Abel:** Thank you.

725 There have been some good points made there and certainly I know that our Good Governance Group is taking this on board, together with other issues of, shall I say, the clumsy nature of our States.

730 With due respect to everybody, if we had had this in time a week ago and had a special Meeting we would have just given this the nod. Sadly, this has caught us between the eyes and has emphasised, Mr Snowdon is correct, that we should be looking at these as they come up. I know that already I have engaged with our Chief Executive to make sure these come up and also I think it will be raised with the President if we feel we need to have a special States Meeting to consider these sorts of items, which are certainly a lot more contentious than some have been in the past. And I can only think when I look back over the past, and also during my period here, we have become too complacent with our 'not to annul' decisions in the past.

735 With regard to Mr Snowdon's question with regard to getting the CCA to open up I think that in terms of the law is not a possibility. However, with the briefing sessions that are had, most major decisions in the CCA ... at least fortnightly and it has been almost weekly up until more recently, the CCA is open to having questions put to it and also does explain the reasoning and background for some of the decisions. So I think there is a reasonable amount of information  
740 passed to the public in terms of that.

How long the CCA will have powers over us I do not know, it is certainly a debate. I think the States of Deliberation has also put that to the CCA and really we have to look forward to when we accept where we are with living with COVID and how we live with COVID and how we will function in those terms.

745 Again, I put to everybody, and I have put this question to myself over the last few days and weeks, that when everybody is vaccinated to the level they can be, particularly with 18 years and older, at that point we should consider that COVID is now really a more nasty form of the flu. Do we lockdown everybody when we have got the flu? Do we stand here with masks on when we have got the flu? No. I do realise we do not understand this fully at the moment, I do understand  
750 it mutates and so does the flu, and the flu is probably more difficult, as I understand it, to engineer a booster or a vaccination against it. So, sadly, we will get to the point where we accept that this is a bad case of the flu and unfortunately it will be a bit more dramatic than when we get a bad case of the flu, especially with the superspreader-type events that we have had in the last few days because that – and I do not really want to think about it but I think I have to be realistic – is  
755 what we face in the years ahead because of this disease, Mr President.

Thank you.

**The President:** Just for the purposes of clarification, there are times set aside for the notice before we can have a Meeting of the States. There is provision within the Rules to truncate that  
760 period if I am satisfied that a matter requires an urgent decision but we have gone further than that in the past. We had two incidences I think over Christmas in relation to Brexit and third-party protection for people who were giving the vaccines and we were able to suspend the Rules of Procedure to allow us to have a States Meeting very quickly, with a People's Meeting which we had in this room shortly before. So we can, when we are required to do so, move very quickly. But  
765 as far as my office is concerned, I am constrained until and unless I receive a submission from a chairman of a report because that will then make sure that the process goes ahead and that triggers it.

770 So in the end we can do these things. It is a matter for the politicians to decide how they want to proceed, but I will always attempt to facilitate debate and decisions where they need to be done urgently.

I think that being the case, and given some of the remarks that have been made by Members, Mr Greffier, we will just take a vote on this one, please.

*A vote was taken and the results were as follows:*

<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAINED</b>
Mr Abel	None	None
Ms Burgess		
Mr Carter		
Mr Gentle		
Mr Harris		
Mr Jenkins		
Mr Kelly		
Mr McKinley		
Mr Roberts		
Mr Snowdon		

**The Greffier:** That is unanimous and carried then, sir.

775 **The President:** Thank you.

**III. Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (Vaccine) (Limitation of Liability) (No.7)  
(Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2021 –  
Not annulled**

*Item III.*

*The States of Alderney is asked not to annul “The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (Vaccine) (Limitation of Liability) (No.7) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2021”.*

**The President:** Item V, please.

**The Greffier:** Item III, sir, I think.

780 **The President:** Sorry, yes. We have another one.

**The Greffier:** Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (Vaccine) (Limitation of Liability) (No.7) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2021. The States of Alderney is asked not to annul the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (Vaccine) (Limitation of Liability) (No.7) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2021. This Item is proposed by Mr Abel and seconded by Mr Snowdon.

785 **The President:** Mr Abel.

**Mr Abel:** Thank you, Mr President.

790 Again, if I can draw everybody’s attention to the document and the detail surrounding this. This is with regard to the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (Vaccine) (Limitation of Liability) (No.7), in this case, (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2021. This has been renewed and will come into effect as of 18th June, plus these Regulations revoke and replace the previous Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (Vaccine) (Limitation of Liability) (No.6) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations.

795 Mr President, the States of Alderney is asked not to annul the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (Vaccine) (Limitation of Liability) (No.7) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2021.

Thank you, Mr President.

800 **The President:** Thank you.  
Again, Mr Snowdon.

**Mr Snowdon:** I am happy to second, sir, and reserve my right to speak, if that is okay.  
Thank you.

805 **The President:** Would anybody else like to speak?

**Mr Snowdon:** Nothing to add but thank you.

810 **The President:** And I am sure there is nothing further you want to add, Mr Abel. So that being the case, unless anybody shakes their head, I think we can take that one as passing.  
Thank you.

#### **IV. Amendment to Rule 4.1(a) of Alderney Rules of Procedure Approved**

*Item IV.*

*The States of Alderney is asked to approve that Rule 4.1. (a) of the States of Alderney Rules of Procedure 2010 (last amended 16th October 2019) is amended to read:-*

*“1 (a) any letter to the President, except for a letter to which Rule 4A applies, signed by the Chairman of a Committee of the States and referring to a matter which falls within the mandate of that Committee and the preparation of which has been approved by electronic recording means of a quorate meeting of that Committee (whether unanimously or by a majority), and received by the President at least 16 days before that meeting or within such other lesser time as the President may notify to Members of the States.”*

815 **The Greffier:** Item IV is the amendment to the Rule 4.1(a) of the States of Alderney Rules of Procedure. The States of Alderney is asked to approve that Rule 4.1(a) of the States of Alderney Rules of Procedure 2010, last amended 16th October 2019, is amended to read as follows: ‘1(a) any letter to the President, except for a letter to which Rule 4A applies, signed by the Chairman of a Committee of the States and referring to a matter which falls within the mandate of that Committee and the preparation of which has been approved by electronic recording means of a quorate meeting of that Committee, whether unanimously or by a majority, and received by the President at least 16 days before that meeting or within such other lesser time as the President may notify to Members of the States.’

820 This is proposed by Mr Abel and seconded by Mr Gentle.

**The President:** Now, Ms Burgess, there were some comments at the People’s Meeting.

825 **Ms Burgess:** Yes, thank you, Mr President, fellow States Members.

It was queried who prepares the document for the Billet. The Chief Executive advised that this could be a civil servant or a States Member, depending on the topic.

It was also clarified that the use of ‘electronic means’ does not encompass electronic voting.  
Thank you.

830

**The President:** Thank you.  
Mr Abel.

**Mr Abel:** Yes, thank you, Mr President, and thank you, Ms Burgess.

835 There is again a lot of background in the documentation here. To summarise this and to make it as simple as possible, because certainly it has been challenging to everybody to try and get the

words right to make it clear here, this is really to make things a lot more simple in this more modern age.

840 When we look at the Rules of Procedure it actually requires us, if we have not quite got a dot or a comma in place or miss a sentence out, to put it back down to P&F, P&F have got to look at it and then take it back and through again, and if we continue to proceed with that, as we have in the past, then the wheels of our Government slow down, some may think even more, but generally it does not help to try and facilitate moving forward.

845 This change really allows further questions to be put by Members against the understanding of what was to be tabled in the Billet and allows that to be done quickly and by means of, in our case, by email means. So it will facilitate the operating of the States in terms of that.

850 Hence, Mr President, I would like to propose that Members approve the change in Rule 4.1(a) of the States of Alderney Rules of Procedure 2020, which were last amended on 16th October 2019 and it would read as per the brief that the Greffier gave to us at the start of this particular Item, if that is in order, Mr President.

**The President:** Yes, very succinctly put, Mr Abel.

**Mr Abel:** Thank you very much.

855

**The President:** Mr Gentle.

**Mr Gentle:** Sir, colleagues. Mr Abel has stated that this is progress and I fully support and am more than happy to second this Item.

860 Thank you.

**The President:** Thank you.

Would anybody like to speak on this Item? I am sure you are done, Mr Abel, so again, Mr Greffier ... Oh.

865

**Mr Abel:** Just a little note if I may, Mr President?

**The President:** In these very unusual circumstances I am going to give Mr Abel the floor because there was something that perhaps understandably was missed out of his report and I think it is information for our community to have so, on this occasion, Mr Abel, once again, the floor is yours.

870

**Mr Abel:** Thank you, Mr President, and thank you, colleagues, for your understanding, hopefully.

875

An item that had been raised which I forgot to cover in my report, Mr President, was with regard to the further vaccination programme for our community. It has been revealed that not everybody takes up their invite to have their vaccination, and really what I would like to say to everybody is that if you have that invitation please take it up, please go for your vaccination. Obviously that is your choice for the vaccination but please do not leave a gap that somebody else could have filled.

880

In terms of that programme there has been discussion with the people organising that programme to see whether it can be advanced a bit and some of the people who may miss out in the period that they are under isolation that their vaccinations can be done as soon as possible and as soon as they are out of that vaccination programme. It is apparent at the moment because of the lower level of take up that would have been required that the vaccination programme will actually have been extended due to people not taking up the vaccination. So the implication of that is probably that the Bailiwick and the Island may not be up to full vaccination potential, if I can use that, Mr President, before the end of August, so that is very disappointing to us all.

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890 So if I could just ask colleagues and also people listening, please encourage people to go and get your vaccination. And if you cannot make it, make sure you go back to the Island Medical Centre or to the Public Health services and tell them that you cannot make it so they can organise for somebody else to take up that spot that you could have occupied.

Thank you, Mr President. I think it is quite important and I appreciate your indulgence.

895 **The President:** Well, in these times, Mr Abel, we will do what is necessary. I think, Mr Greffier, that Proposition passed.

**The Greffier:** Just for completeness, as no one has dissented, I assumed it had passed.

900 **The President:** Thank you.

### V. Questions and Reports – One question for verbal reply

*Item V.*

*Question from Mr Gentle for the Chairman of the Policy & Finance Committee Chairman, Mr Abel:*

*Is the Chairman in a position to explain why the image showing an exclusion zone around the former burial site on Longis Common with the FAB link going around the site was shown to stakeholders but removed from the IHRA public presentation?*

**The Greffier:** That leaves Item V, Mr President, Questions and Reports. We have a Question, submitted in the appropriate time and the proper manner, from Mr Gentle for Mr Abel.

905 **Ms Burgess:** I have a comment from the People's Meeting on it.

**The President:** The question was?

**Ms Burgess:** There was a comment made on Questions and Reports.

910 **The President:** Thank you, Ms Burgess.

**Ms Burgess:** Sorry to interrupt.

915 It was noted that no Questions or Reports were submitted at this time but a comment was made in regard to the content of this Billet which was considered to only include non-significant items, which isn't quite ... *(Laughter)* The public wanted to see more items of community benefit being discussed. The Convener advised it was anticipated that more items of public interest would be discussed at the next September Meeting.

Thank you.

920 **The President:** Stretching a bit but we will go with it. Now, Mr Gentle, would you like to put your Question?

**Mr Gentle:** Thank you, sir, colleagues.

925 It is a question for Mr Abel, Chairman of Policy and Finance. Is the Chairman in a position to explain why the image showing an exclusion zone around the former burial site on Longis Common with the FAB link going around the site was shown to stakeholders but removed from the IHRA public presentation?

Thank you.

930 **The President:** Mr Abel.

**Mr Abel:** Thank you, Mr President, and thank you, Mr Gentle, for raising that question.

935 Certainly during the meetings that Members had with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) representatives, which was Lord Pickles, Sally Sealey from the British Government and Dr Gilly Carr, when that slide was put up on the presentation to ourselves we were a little bit concerned as to why that particular slide, which says FAB link on the bottom, had been put into the presentation. We certainly were a little bit concerned. And, rightly so, Members asked for that slide to be changed and rather to refer to the area as an area of concern, the Island Longis.

940 In terms of whether this is a conspiracy theory that is out there, one could do that. But to me, in terms of the process of our Committee there, in the end that has to be dealt with in the proper manner and come up with the right area that everybody is comfortable with, not to allow FAB link to do anything, not to allow anybody else to come along and dig up the Longis Common. We as a society and a community must be convinced what the correct area is and how we want to demarcate it, Mr Gentle, I think that is the concern of the public. It is not FAB link who tells us

945 where to put the lines.

Thank you.

**The President:** Do you have a question arising from that answer, Mr Gentle?

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**Mr Gentle:** I will get to the question at the end of this, sir, thank you.

955 I thank Mr Abel. When this question was posed and found itself placed on the Billet I was totally unaware of the maelstrom that was about to be unleashed last weekend. This is a very important topic, despite COVID being around but not quite realising what was coming around the corner, and I think this perhaps counts as an apology. Does the Chairman agree that he possibly wishes that with his weekend workload he would have preferred this to wait until next week?

Thank you.

**Mr Abel:** Mr President, may I answer that?

960

**The President:** Yes, please do.

**Mr Abel:** Thank you.

965 I think with the current workload I would have been happy for it all to be delayed until next week, Mr Gentle, and thank you for that.

970 But no, I do agree with you, this is quite important. Hopefully by the time you get back – well maybe not hopefully by the time you get back – there should be another email with a note with regard to the discussions we had with the IHRA, I am trying to think, just over a week ago, because that is something that is in the agenda for P&F's meeting and I have put a small note together, in amongst sleeping, because I think it is important to us and the community and it is extremely sensitive so that proposal has been put there. It is brief, for once, but I think it does cover the areas that we need to consider and how we take this whole Holocaust scenario and conspiracy theory that everybody got, how we deal with it, how we take it forward and how it is managed on behalf of the community, because it is something that has gone round and round for many years, as all of us know.

975 There is a process that has been tabled, which I think we can take up and manage and come up with the answers that we need so that we have a view where nobody else can up with their own opinion and cause havoc as we have had in the past with various experts declaring how many people are buried in mass graves, where the areas are, what we have to be concerned about. We,



980 the Island, need to take hold of this, come up with the right answers, have the right independent advisory people in place and deal with the matter.

So yes, I appreciate your question and your kindness in thinking about the workload. But to me it is something that has to go ahead as well.

Thank you, Mr President.

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**The President:** Does anybody else have ... Mr Snowdon.

**Mr Snowdon:** Thank you very much, Mr President, thank you for that, Mr Abel.

990 Really the clarification was basically before anything is decided at P&F whether the public engagement and consultation with stakeholders, obviously which is very important, and also regarding the mystery image, can we now put that into the public for openness and transparency? I think that would be the best thing.

Thank you.

995

**The President:** Would you like to respond to that?

**Mr Abel:** Yes, thank you.

1000 I think it would be the case and I think when we get the slides – I am not so sure we got that presentation; and I am looking towards the Chief Executive at the moment – those slides as they were can be published, there is nothing in there, in my opinion, that the public does not need to know about, there is nothing confidential at all. And again, the important thing is that the whole process ... because it involves the community, there will be extensive consultation around the process, but again I would like to see us a bit more engaged in the process and not see that the thrust has been Dr Gilly Carr handling the process on our behalf.

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**Mr Snowdon:** Just a point of order, I am really sorry to do it. (**Mr Abel:** Please.) Just for clarification of the image that was taken away that it would be in the public domain?

**The President:** That is not a point of order, Mr Snowdon.

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**Mr Snowdon:** I thought it was.

**Mr Abel:** I think the image there, the only place we have it is in the slide presentation. And to me, you can put that in the domain and we can put it on the website if needed. (**Mr Snowdon:** Thank you.) Okay, thank you.

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**The President:** Ms Burgess.

**Ms Burgess:** Thank you, Mr President, fellow States Members.

1020

Can I just ask Mr Abel a question? Having been at the presentation when the slide was pointed out to be an odd addition because of the reference at the bottom, Dr Carr actually explained it by saying that they were needing the image of Longis and it was just almost a case of laziness. They picked one that had the topic on and she herself said it was an oversight and hence the reason why she was happy to take it off and change it. I just want you to ... Is that the same recollection as I have had of that?

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**The President:** Mr Abel.

**Mr Abel:** Mr President, yes, that is definitely the case. And again, it will be, I think, as Mr Snowdon pointed out, if the slides that we have are the same slides that we had in the evening presentation then that is different to the slides we saw ourselves during the day, so I think that is

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something that we can ask for. And again if we want to make it public that is fine, but that just helps our conspiracy people some more if that is what they want to do.

Thank you, Mr President.

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**The President:** Would anybody else like to ask a question? No.

Just for the sake of completeness, we have all got very used to using acronyms all the time so I think, just for the sake of clarity, you referred to IHRA, it is the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

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**Mr Abel:** Thank you, Mr President, very important.

**The President:** Thank you very much indeed. Now, that being the case, Mr Greffier, I think that concludes our business for this afternoon.

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**The Greffier:** Yes, sir. There being no further business to transact, if I may close the Meeting?

**The President:** Yes, please do.

**PRAYERS**

*The Greffier*

*The Assembly adjourned at 4.07 p.m.*