



BILLET D'ETAT FOR 23-11-2005

Date: 23rd November, 2005

Members of the States:

I have the honour to inform you that the Meeting of the States will be held at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday 23rd November, 2005. His Excellency Vice Admiral Sir Fabian Malbon, KBE, Lieutenant-Governor of the Bailiwick of Guernsey will be in attendance. This will be preceded by the People's Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday 16th November at 7:00 p.m. in the Island Hall.

Sir Norman Browse
President

Item I The Protection from Harassment (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2005

The following letter has been received from Sir Norman Browse, President of the States of Alderney:

"Please find enclosed a letter from Mr G. R. Rowland, dated 28th October, 2005 seeking approval of the above law.

I would therefore be obliged if you would debate this matter at your meeting on 23rd November, 2005 and give your approval as set out in that letter.

Sir Norman Browse
President "

The States is asked to approve "The Protection from Harassment (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2005".

(Note: A copy of the Projet de Loi may be seen in the States Office, Island Hall and the Alderney Library.)

Item II The States Water Supply (Rates of Charge) (Alderney) Ordinance 2005

The following letter has been received from Mr Walden Deputy Chairman, General Services Committee:
"Water Rates were last increased with effect from the first quarter of 2004, thus there would be a gap of two years if they were to be increased at the same time in 2006.

The budget for 2005 is predicting an operating deficit of £28,700 and latest figures indicate that this may be greater. Increasing cost of fuel and electricity and the amount of pumping is the main reason for this increase of costs, as known increases in insurance premiums, pension costs and wages were already budgeted for.

Without an increase in rates the estimate for 2006 predicts an operating deficit of £35,600, but again if fuel costs remain high this may be exceeded.

In both years the interest on bank deposits has the effect of reducing the total deficit, but this interest

should in effect be regarded as helping to offset the effect of inflation on the Board's reserves and not as a subsidy on the rates. It has been the Board's policy for many years to maintain a fairly healthy reserve in case of serious disruption to the water supply, as well as to finance future development of the water infrastructure.

Unless rates are increased in 2006 we will see a reduction in the Board's reserves, which would eventually require a large increase to restore.

Over two years the index of retail prices has increased by over 9%, and an increase in this order would restore the account to a near break even position. Even with such an increase Water Rates in Alderney would still remain considerably cheaper than in the other islands.

However, my Committee, being mindful of the other increasing costs faced by householders and businesses, has decided to limit the increase in Water Rates to 5% on this occasion, which will provide about £13,000 in additional revenue. It may however be necessary to seek a further increase in less than two years time if the operating deficit remains high.

The States is therefore asked to approve the attached draft Ordinance entitled "The States Water Supply (Rates of Charge) (Alderney) Ordinance 2005" which will bring the 5% increase into effect from the quarter commencing 26th December 2005.

W Walden

Deputy Chairman

General Services Committee"

The States is asked to approve "The States Water Supply (Rates of Charge) (Alderney) Ordinance 2005".

Item III Questions and Reports

Issued: Friday 11th November, 2005
