

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

COMMITTEE *FOR* HOME AFFAIRS

POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION - APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER

The States are asked to decide:-

Whether, after consideration of the Policy Letter entitled “Police Complaints Commission – Appointment of Member”, dated 28th September 2020, they are of the opinion:-

1. To appoint of Mrs Judith Soraya Watson as an ordinary member of the Police Complaints Commission for a period of 4 years with immediate effect.

The above Proposition has been submitted to Her Majesty's Procureur for advice on any legal or constitutional implications in accordance with Rule 4(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees.

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POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION - APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER

The Presiding Officer
States of Guernsey
Royal Court House
St Peter Port

28th September 2020

Dear Sir

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this Policy Letter is to formally appoint a member of the Police Complaints Commission (“the Commission”).

2 Background

- 2.1 The Police Complaints Commission was established by the Police Complaints (Guernsey) Law, 2008 (“The Law”) with effect from 1st July 2011. The Commission is an independent panel which maintains oversight of how complaints against the police are handled.
- 2.2 The Schedule to the Law sets out the composition of, and appointment process to, the Commission, and establishes that:-
- the Commission shall consist of a Chairman and five ordinary members;
 - the Chairman and ordinary members shall be appointed for a term of four years by the States of Deliberation upon the recommendation of the Committee *for* Home Affairs;
 - members of the Commission may be reappointed.

3 Appointment of New Ordinary Member – 4 year term

- 3.1 The Police Complaints (Guernsey) Law, 2008 establishes the Police Complaints Commission which comprises of a Chairman and 5 ordinary Members; there are currently two vacancies on the Commission.
- 3.2 An open recruitment process took place in order to attract applicants. Whilst no

formal qualifications are required for the role, it is necessary for individuals to be fair, objective and non-judgemental and to have the ability to understand complex matters.

- 3.3 The Committee *for* Home Affairs is pleased to nominate Mrs Watson to serve as an ordinary member of the Police Complaints Commission for four years with immediate effect. It is considered that Mrs Watson has the necessary experience and qualities to play a positive role in the Commission and will further complement group dynamics.
- 3.4 Mrs Watson is a retired company director of Vets4Pets and prior to that was a dispensing Optician at Specsavers. She has some experience dealing with complaints and with a wide range of issues, and demonstrated in interview that she was able to understand complex documentation and consider different views and perspectives. Mrs Watson has volunteered at the shop at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital for 17 years, serving occasionally on the wards. This has given her a wide range of experience with many different people from all walks of life.
- 3.5 In interview Mrs Watson presented as a good communicator, she was confident when discussing her opinions and was not afraid to ask questions. Mrs Watson was able to identify the challenges faced by the local police force and it was felt that she was able to contribute fairly and objectively to provide independent oversight of police complaints. Mrs Watson has the capacity and flexibility to prepare for and attend meetings as may be required.

4 Compliance with Rule 4

- 4.1 Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees sets out the information which must be included in, or appended to, motions laid before the States.
- 4.2 In accordance with Rule 4(4) of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees, it is confirmed that the proposition has the unanimous support of the Committee.
- 4.3 In accordance with Rule 4(5), the Propositions relate to the duties of the Committee "to advise the States and to develop and implement policies on matters relating to its purpose, including:[...] law enforcement, including policing and customs".

Yours faithfully

M M Lowe
President

M P Leadbeater
Vice-President

V S Oliver
J Smithies
P Le Pelley