

**OVERSEAS AID & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER

The States are asked to decide:-

Whether, after consideration of the Policy Letter entitled "*Overseas Aid & Development Commission – Appointment of Commissioner*" dated 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023, they are of the opinion:-

- (i) To appoint Mr Mike Allen as a Commissioner on the Overseas Aid & Development Commission from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 until 31<sup>st</sup> July 2026.

# OVERSEAS AID & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER

The Presiding Officer  
Royal Court  
St Peter Port  
Guernsey

15<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Sir

### **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this Policy Letter is to seek the approval of the States of Deliberation to appoint one new Commissioner to the Overseas Aid & Development Commission to serve the remainder of the term of Mrs Margaret McGuinness who is standing down from the Commission on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2024.
- 1.2 The Commissioners are appointed to serve four year terms and Mrs McGuinness' current term was due to expire on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2026.
- 1.3 This Policy Letter asks the States of Deliberation to appoint Mr Mike Allen to the Overseas Aid & Development Commission from 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2026.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Commission is a committee of the States of Guernsey which distributes funds voted by the States for aid and development overseas by making grants to charities undertaking development and humanitarian work in the world's least developed countries, and by contributing to emergency and disaster relief.

- 2.2 The Commission's mandate is:

*"To distribute funds voted by the States for aid and development overseas by making contributions to ongoing programmes and to emergency and disaster relief.*

*To develop programmes relating to the collection and distribution of funds involving the private sector.*

*To carry out its duties and powers in accordance with operational policies approved by the Policy & Resources Committee, and the strategic direction set by the States.*

*To fulfil the responsibilities set out in Annex One to the mandates of committees of the States.”*

- 2.3 The role of the Commission is to administer the budget approved by the States of Guernsey for overseas aid. The Commission’s President is a member of the States of Deliberation and the six Commissioners are appointed by the States of Deliberation.
- 2.4 The Commission’s 2023 budget is £3,855,000<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.5 The purpose of overseas aid has been expressed in successive Policy Letters over the past 43 years<sup>2</sup>. Guernsey gives in order to help provide for the basic needs of people in the poorest parts of the world – including health, education, clean water and food. The aim is to reduce human vulnerability and to promote sustainable change that will last beyond the lifespan of the project being funded. For the communities receiving aid from Guernsey, the benefits are both life-changing and often life-saving.

### **3. The Retiring Commissioner**

- 3.1 Mrs Margaret McGuinness was first appointed as a Commissioner in June 2018. Her appointment was renewed in July 2022 for a further four year term, but she understandably has decided to stand down from 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2024, as she will be retiring from her employment at Guernsey Water and moving to the United Kingdom early in the New Year.
- 3.2 Mrs McGuinness is the Water Quality Risk Manager with Guernsey Water. Prior to moving to Guernsey, Mrs McGuinness had worked in the water science industry for over 22 years including as Public Health Manager for Scottish Water. A post she had held for 10 years. Mrs McGuinness has a vast professional experience in and knowledge of public health matters, especially within the context of water and sanitation. Mrs McGuinness served as WaterAid Ambassador in Scotland for a number

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<sup>1</sup> That is £3,241,000 for Grant Aid, £387,500 for Disaster and Emergency Relief, £134,500 for Community Partnerships, £43,000 for Skills Partnerships, £49,000 for staff & promotion and administration.

<sup>2</sup> Between 1980 and April 2004, the Overseas Aid Committee was mandated to distribute funds voted by the States for aid and development overseas. In May 2004, the Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission replaced the former Committee and whilst its mandate remained largely unchanged, its membership changed. Between May 2004 and April 2016, the Commission’s membership comprised a Chairman selected from the members of Policy Council and six Islanders appointed by the States on the recommendation of the Policy Council to serve as Commissioners.

of years. This role involved her in funding raising for and promoting the work of WaterAid<sup>3</sup>.

- 3.3 Each year, the Commission receives many applications from development aid charities for water and sanitation-linked (WaSH) projects. Mrs McGuinness' experience in and understanding of these matters, particularly linked to her role with WaterAid, has been invaluable and will be greatly missed.
- 3.4 The Commission wishes to record its grateful thanks to Mrs McGuinness for her commitment and hard work, especially the many hours she spent reading and assessing each of the hundreds of applications for Grant Aid Funding received each year, over the five and a half years she has served on the Commission. The role of Commissioner is an unpaid one but one which requires a great deal of work. Mrs McGuinness has willingly made this high level of commitment in the knowledge that, as a result of her endeavours, some of the world's poorest communities receive development aid which will bring a life changing and sustainable improvement in their lives.
- 3.5 The Commission wishes Mrs McGuinness well for her much deserved retirement and new life in the United Kingdom.

#### **4. Appointment of New Commissioner**

- 4.1 In October 2023, the Commission advertised the single vacancy in the Guernsey Press and across the local media and social media. A copy of the advertisement and the information pack for applicants is set out in the attached Appendix.
- 4.2 The Commission received five applications. All of the applications were very strong and many of the candidates had direct experience working or volunteering in the development aid field, including some working overseas. They were all shortlisted for interview.
- 4.3 The interview panel consisted of the President and Vice-President of the Commission, with the Principal Officer of the Commission providing support. Following the

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<sup>3</sup> WaterAid is one of the UK's largest development aid charities promoting access to clean, safe water. It has teams in 34 countries across the world, working with our partners to transform millions of lives every year by improving access to clean water, toilets and hygiene. Since 1981, WaterAid has provided clean water to nearly 25 million people.

interview process it was unanimously agreed that Mr Mike Allen should be presented to the States for appointment.

- 4.4 Mr Mike Allen is an experienced Business Leader who has successfully led multi-disciplined teams internationally. This has been in multiple sectors including Information Technology, Healthcare, Life Sciences and Chemicals.
- 4.5 Within Life Sciences and healthcare, Mr Allen has supported charitable projects globally with the supply of services and products at the behest of International Government Development Agencies, such as DANIDA (Denmark's development cooperation under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark), and the World Bank. He has worked alongside the United Nations and the World Health Organization. He has also visited many of these projects to understand their needs and how best to maximise the results for the beneficiaries.
- 4.6 Mr Allen also founded his own business providing outsourced procurement services for governments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with partners in West and East Africa.
- 4.7 Mr Allen gained a Global Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the Manchester Business School, which included a dissertation on the effectiveness of United Kingdom charities.
- 4.8 It is considered that Mr Allen's extensive experience of conducting business in the developing world, including working alongside charities and governments, will be of great benefit to the Commission and allow it to gain a more international perspective in regard to how businesses, government and charities interact on projects.

## **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 The appointment of Mr Allen as a Commissioner of the Overseas Aid and Development Commission is commended to the States.

## **6. Compliance with Rule 4**

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 In accordance with Rule 4(1): a) the proposition contributes to the States' objectives and policy plans by ensuring the Commission has a full complement of Commissioners to fulfil its Constitution; b) in preparing the proposition consultation has been undertaken with the Policy & Resources Committee c) the proposition has been submitted to Her Majesty's Procureur for advice on any legal or constitutional

implications; d) there are no financial implications to the States of carrying the proposal into effect.

- 6.3 In accordance with Rule 4(2): a) the proposition relates to the duties and powers of the Policy & Resources Committee delegated to the Overseas Aid & Development Commission; b) the proposition has the unanimous support of the Policy & Resources Committee and Overseas Aid & Development Commission.

Yours faithfully

Deputy Chris Blin  
President  
Overseas Aid & Development Commission

Miss. J Moore, Vice-President  
Mr. B Pill, Commissioner  
Dr. L Jeffries, Commissioner

Mrs. M McGuinness, Commissioner  
Mr C. Gregg., Commissioner  
Dr. M Le Cheminant, Commissioner



## COMMISSIONER VACANCY

Are you looking to play an active part in your community? Do you take an active interest in developing countries and development aid?

The Overseas Aid & Development Commission is inviting applications for Islanders interested in serving as a Commissioner.

The role of Commissioner includes doing preparatory work in advance of meetings by reading the papers provided and taking an active part in the deliberations and decision-making. The role is unpaid and does not involve overseas travel.

Interested? If you have any questions or would like further information please contact David Way, Commission Principal Officer by calling 223404 or emailing [overseasaid@gov.gg](mailto:overseasaid@gov.gg)

**Applications should be made by submitting a letter of application before 12 noon on Thursday 19th October.**



Overseas Aid &  
Development Commission



Guernsey  
Overseas Aid &  
Development Commission

## Vacancy for a Commissioner

***Are you looking to play an active part in your community?  
Do you take an active interest in developing countries and development aid?  
Are you able to evaluate grant requests to make balanced and fair decisions?***

### **Introduction**

The Overseas Aid & Development Commission (the Commission) is inviting applications for Islanders interested in serving as a Commissioner. The Commission will have one vacancy from 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2024 following one of the current Commissioners standing down as they are leaving the Island.

Appointment to the Commission is made by the States of Deliberation on the recommendation of the Commission and would be for the remainder of a four year term expiring on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2026 (but with the possibility of serving another term). This is an unpaid role but one which is both interesting and rewarding and provides an opportunity to make decisions that will have a real and enduring impact on the lives of some of the world's poorest communities.

The Commissioners' role is to apply their experience of development aid and professional knowledge to help ensure that the annual grant the Commission receives from the States (£3.85 million for 2023) is used to support projects that will offer a sustainable improvement of the basic needs of those living in poverty in the world's least developed countries.

### **The Role of Commissioner**

The role of Commissioner includes doing preparatory work in advance of meetings by reading the papers provided, undertaking any research they consider necessary, and taking an active part in the deliberations and decision-making. **The role is unpaid and does not involve overseas travel.**

The Commission meets regularly (typically once a month), generally on Wednesday afternoons (typically between 4.00pm and 6.00pm). These meetings include:

- Five or six funding meetings (generally held between April and July) to consider applications for charities for grant aid awards;



- Ad hoc meetings to consider requests for disaster and emergency relief awards in response to natural disasters or humanitarian crisis;
- Meetings with local organisations seeking matched funding from the Commission to support development aid projects;
- Meeting/s to review and approve the Commission's annual report
- Ad hoc meetings with representatives of development aid charities to hear about the progress of supported projects and their plans for future work.

Commissioners are required to review and evaluate applications for funding against the Commission's published funding criteria. This includes reading and assessing the applications prior to a meeting and then, during the meeting, discussing the merits of the applications with the other Commissioners and reaching agreement whether or not to support a particular request for funding. Each year the Commission receives around 200 individual applications for grant aid funding and these are considered in batches of between 50 and 60 applications per funding meeting. In addition, the Commission receives around 10 to 15 emergency and disaster relief requests, and up to 10 community partnership funding requests, and there also are a small number of meetings with charities.

The majority of the Commissioners' work is undertaken at home reading and assessing the many applications for funding, reading the project reports submitted by the charities that receive funding from the Commission and generally keeping themselves abreast of matters relating to development aid.

This is a real opportunity to contribute positively not only to our local community but also to improve the lives of some of the world's poorest communities. As well as considering applications, the Commissioners will also have the opportunity to consider and support new overseas aid initiatives. This includes providing guidance and putting forward ideas based on their own knowledge of least developed countries and development aid, as well as their professional expertise.

This is an interesting and exciting role for any local residents with an active interest in the developing world issues, especially development aid. The current Commissioners bring a large range of skills to the Commission's work including direct experience of working in a least developed country, professional experience in medicine, water, tertiary and health education and legal matters, active participation with an established development aid charity and expertise in project management and good governance.

The Commission would be particularly interested in applications from local residents with development aid experience in one or more the following areas:

- Medicine
- Education, especially within primary or secondary schools
- Micro-finance and community savings programmes
- Engineering, especially in relation to solar power and hydrology
- Climate change and mitigation of its impact;

- Legal matters

## **Life as a Commissioner**

To assist you in deciding whether this may be a role for you, the current Commissioners have this to say about the Commission's work and their role:

Judy Moore (Vice President), a qualified physiotherapist and former Academic Lead for Teaching and Learning at the Institute for Health Studies, says,

*"Having worked on Overseas Aid Projects in Sri Lanka and Dominica, I feel that being a Commissioner has enabled me to use my experience to guide the decisions made in relation to the distribution of Guernsey's aid budget on behalf of the Island population. When I was first interviewed for the role I suggested that 'cynicism and realism' would be valuable assets and I still feel these are still essential qualities to be able to judge one apparently worthwhile project against another. Opportunities to discuss projects with my fellow Commissioners and to meet representatives of local and national charities, combined with research into the areas we have been asked to support, have enabled me to develop my understanding of the needs and priorities of communities less fortunate than ourselves. It has been a privilege to contribute towards improving the lives of people in some of the least developed counties in the world."*

Bryan Pill, former Mission Aviation Fellowship pilot for many years, says,

*"One of the delights of this role has been how enjoyable it has been working with such a great team, under excellent leadership. Everyone brings something different to the table, all are heard, united by a common purpose to make the most of the resources we have been given."*

## **Further information**

Interested?

Looking for more information about the Commission's work?

Further information about the Commission's work, including details of its grant aid and disaster and emergency relief policies, can be found on its website – [www.gov.gg/overseasaid](http://www.gov.gg/overseasaid). The Commission's annual reports (downloadable from the Commission's website) include updates on projects the Commission has supported through its grants and statistics about the number, type and location of projects funded by the Commission.

If you have any questions or would like further information including details of the role please do not hesitate to contact David Way, the Commission's Principal Officer, (telephone 223404 or email [overseasaid@gov.gg](mailto:overseasaid@gov.gg)).

Applications should be made by submitting a letter of application.

**Deadline for applications: Noon on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023.**