

Chief Minister

Cyril Le Marquand House
St Helier
JE4 8QT
Jersey, Channel Islands



Government
of JERSEY

██████████
Chief Executive
Royal National Lifeboat Institution
West Quay Road
Poole
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21st July 2017

Dear ██████████

Many thanks for your letter of 11th July 2017 and for your candour. I certainly appreciate everything that the RNLI has done to reach a return to service for the St Helier based crew.

Like you, we do not want to see a repeat of the situation. We also deeply appreciate the support we receive from the RNLI. I do hope in the coming years, the RNLI would also continue to benefit from the support which the Island provides.

I know you have experience in operating critical lifesaving stations in small communities, and in many respects Jersey is no different. However, an Island community, particularly one which is so well served by mainstream media and with an increasing penetration of social media, we have an intensity that may not be felt in small communities in the UK. It is something that we work with every day.

I can assure you that we wish to have a fully functioning RNLI station in St Helier, and we are working hard across the lifesaving community to bring us all to a better standing. We do have a subset of the population, some politicians and of course ██████████ who are finding it more challenging to look forward rather than backward. I recognise this as a challenge, but the official Government message is that we want this to work.

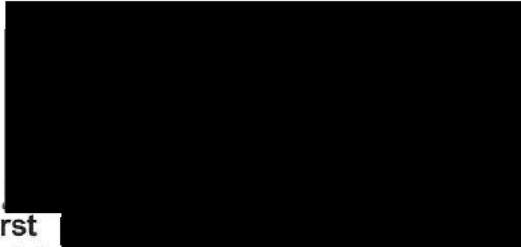
Work that Government, with the Ports of Jersey, are doing to rebuild relationships and working practices include:-

- More frequent visits by the Coast Guard to the St Helier Station
- More informal dialogue across all aspects of the community, including St Helier & St Catherine's RNLI stations, RNLI Beach Lifeguards, RNLI HQ and States of Jersey's Fire & Emergency services
- Organising a 'Jersey Life Saving Community' workshop for August, where Government and Ports of Jersey will bring together all entities involved in sea search and rescue activities
- Organising exercises across multiple assets to raise understanding of the various processes and procedures
- Regular discussion with RNLI HQ

Our hope is that with this momentum, those who have wished to look backwards will find it increasingly difficult to do so. If there is more that you feel we could be doing here, I would very much like to hear from you what that might be.

In the meantime, we are very pleased to have a fully operational St Helier back and look forward to the appointment of the new Station Manager.

Yours sincerely



Senator Ian Gorst
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