



ELECTORAL COMMISSION

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Background

The States first decided to establish an Electoral Commission on 15th March 2011 when a proposition (P.15/2011) brought by Deputy Daniel Wimberley of St. Mary was adopted as amended. The Privileges and Procedures Committee was charged with bringing forward proposals on the appropriate composition of the Commission.

The States debated a proposition (P.5/2012) brought by the Privileges and Procedures Committee on 6th and 7th March 2012 and agreed that the Commission should be comprised of 3 members of the States, one of whom would be its Chairman, together with 3 other persons who are not members of the States.

On 7th March 2012 the States appointed Senator Sir Philip Bailhache as Chairman of the Commission and Connétable Juliette Gallichan of St. Mary and Deputy James Baker of St. Helier as members.

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the Commission were approved by the States as part of the proposition debated on 6th and 7th March 2012.

1. The Electoral Commission shall consider all the following areas –

- Classes of States member;
- Constituencies and mandates;
- Number of States members;
- Terms of office;

and all other issues arising in the course of the work of the Commission which are relevant to the needs stated above.

2. The views of the public in Jersey should be sought and all such views taken into consideration. Formal meetings and hearings of the Commission should be held publicly in Jersey unless the Commission believes that there are reasonable grounds for holding a meeting or hearing in camera. The content of all written submissions to the Commission will be made available to the public, unless the Commission believes that there are reasonable grounds for non-disclosure of a submission or part of a submission, and should be attributed unless the submitter explicitly requests that a submission shall be non-attributed and the Commission accepts the reasons for such a request.
3. The Electoral Commission shall review existing studies and research and conduct further research as it sees fit.
4. At the conclusion of its investigation, the Electoral Commission shall present a report with recommendations to the Privileges and Procedures Committee to enable the Committee to present

the Commission's proposals to the States for approval prior to the submission of the proposals to the electorate in a referendum under the Referendum (Jersey) Law 2002.

Timescale and likely time commitment

The Commission has been requested by the States to report its conclusions to PPC no later than December 2012. The timescale for the implementation of the Commission's recommendations was given as follows in the report that accompanied the proposition that was debated on 6th and 7th March 2012 -

December 2012	Commission presents its recommendations to PPC.
January 2013	Commission's proposals and referendum Act lodged by PPC.
March 2013	Commission's proposals and referendum Act debated by the States.
June 2013	Referendum held.
July/August 2013	Legislation drafted.
September 2013	Legislation lodged for debate.
November 2013	Legislation debated by the States.
May 2014	Legislation sanctioned by Privy Council.
June 2014	Legislation registered in Royal Court.
October 2014	Elections.

The Commission will need to define its own work programme and it is therefore not possible to set out in advance the precise time commitment required for the work, but the Commission will need to organise a regular schedule of meetings, public hearings and meetings between May and December 2012 and applicants must be able to make themselves available extensively during that period.

Remuneration and expenses

Members of the Commission will be appointed on a purely honorary basis and no remuneration will be payable for this work. Members will nevertheless be able to claim back any reasonable expenses that are directly related to work on the Commission. In the case of a member who was not a Jersey resident this would, in particular, cover travel and accommodation costs to attend meetings of the Commission.

Skills and experience required

The proposition adopted by the States stated that the 3 persons appointed to the Commission should possess "appropriate skills and experience" and applicants should set out clearly in their application why they consider that their knowledge, background and experience make them suitable for this work. Candidates will also need to satisfy the selection panel that they are able to approach the work in a totally objective and evidence-based way and that they do not have a pre-determined view on the most appropriate reform proposals.

How to apply

Applications should be sent to the Greffier of the States, States Greffe, Morier House, St. Helier, Jersey, JE1 1DD (or by e-mail to m.delahaye@gov.je) no later than **Friday 23rd March 2012**. Applicants should submit a CV or set out their personal details in their letter of application and must specify clearly any relevant skills and experience.