

**Swearing In of Sir Stephen Dalton
As Lieutenant Governor of Jersey
Monday 13th March 2017**

Your Excellency

1. It is my privilege to address you by your formal title for the first time and to welcome you today as you enter upon your term of office as our Lieutenant Governor. That welcome extends of course to your wife Lady Dalton, whom we are equally honoured to receive in this Court. It is also a pleasure to see your son and your mother in this Court with other members of your family present to witness what is both a solemn ceremony and I hope a warm Jersey occasion. It would have been complete for your family if your daughter were able to have been here from Australia, but we all recognise that that is hardly next door, and we look forward to receiving her on another occasion.

2. I am delighted to welcome as a special guest to this ceremony the Right Reverend Trevor Wilmott, Bishop of Dover, with whom I understand you have been friends for some time. This will be the third occasion in the last three weeks that the Bishop of Dover has been in the Island, and the fact that he is prepared to give us that time shows genuine commitment – especially so during the calendar months of February and March!

3. I am also very pleased to welcome Mr Richard Heaton, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice and Ms Elaine Cobb who runs the section dealing with relations between Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and Her Majesty's Government in Jersey. Mr Heaton has had some dealings with the Island in the past when based elsewhere in Whitehall, and it is a great pleasure to welcome him home, as it were. The Ministry of Justice has an extremely wide portfolio of responsibilities, and it is a great honour for us and a tribute to the Lieutenant Governor that he is here.
4. But let me add that, special guests apart, it is a great pleasure to welcome you all today to this Court, whether here physically or joining us through the media. The swearing in of a Lieutenant Governor is a wonderful Jersey occasion, enabling us both to reaffirm our links with our Sovereign, whose direct representative he is, and to celebrate the appointment in a personal way with a couple who will be very much part of the fabric of Jersey life over Your Excellency's term of office. We expect to take you to our hearts, and that journey starts today.
5. Your Excellency, you join us with the most distinguished of military careers. Having joined the Royal Air Force in 1976 you rose through the ranks ultimately becoming Chief of Air Staff in 2009, a position which you held until July 2013. One of your jobs during that time was to prepare for and conduct the 2010 United

Kingdom strategic defence and security review, which required a considerable focus on the political and international environments and the identification of an effective military strategy which could be managed within the significant financial constraints imposed by the national economic situation. I have no doubt that that was an immensely challenging task, and equally have no doubt that you are unlikely to face anything remotely similar in your current post!

6. I know that you have done a considerable amount of reading into the history of this Island – it is a history of which we are rightly proud. Over the centuries, Islanders have been granted by the Crown in Royal Charters a series of rights and privileges from which has developed an unequivocal autonomy over our domestic affairs which is reflected indeed in the preamble to the States of Jersey Law 2005, to which Her Majesty has given royal assent; and of course those Charters reflect a recognition that the Channel Islands, whilst a possession of the English Crown, are not to be viewed as any other possession for they are not conquered or ceded territories, neither are they colonies or dominions. As a matter of our history since 1066, we are proud to be a possession of the Crown as indeed today the United Kingdom is a possession of the Crown, neither in domestic or national law subservient to the other. A close analogy might be to regard both as principalities of the same prince – and it is in that context that the two constitutional democracies work together in partnership.

7. The link which the Lieutenant Governor provides to the Secretary of State for Justice, not in her capacity as such but as Her Majesty's Privy Counsellor with a special responsibility for the Island is a potentially vital link in trying to make that partnership work as in the past it generally has. We rely on the Lieutenant Governor, as personal representative in the Island of Her Majesty, to be resolute with us in ensuring that the interests of Her Majesty and her subjects in Jersey are protected in what is sometimes an intellectually inconsistent and challenging political world outside.
8. Your Excellency the oath you have just taken reflects this history. You have sworn not only to be faithful to the Crown and to defend the Island against the enemy but also to maintain our rights, liberties, laws and customs and to promote the Island's welfare. I hope very much that you will not be called upon to worry too much about that oath during your term of office. You are already fairly familiar with the Island from numerous visits paid here over the years, and I know that we will all look forward to deepening your knowledge of us, our past, our present and our aspirations for the future. You and Lady Dalton will, I am sure, find that Jersey provides an immensely warm and welcoming environment, and some rich and extremely diverse seams of talent.
9. Your Excellency on behalf of all Islanders I wish you and Lady Dalton the most satisfying and the happiest of sorties with us. May the Jersey sun shine warmly on your faces, our gentle breeze at

your backs; may our Jersey Royals keep you nourished and the tranquility of our green lanes rise up to greet you!

10. Votre Excellence, la parole est à vous.