

Chief Minister of Jersey

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Dear *Philip,*

Thank you for your letter of 20th January 2017.

You have noted the widespread consternation over governance of the Jersey Innovation Fund and I very much share those concerns. As you most recently held delegated political responsibility for the Fund, I recognise this has brought a particularly personal focus and pressure upon you.

You are aware that I have launched separate reviews into political involvement and officer responsibility for the Fund. I look forward to receiving the findings and will take whatever action is necessary to restore the confidence of the public and the States Assembly. This is vital if we are to continue supporting innovation and growth within our economy.

You have capably served the public of Jersey in a number of positions since the start of your political career. Throughout this time you have taken many difficult decisions with a resolute focus on the best long term interests of our island. When I appointed you as Assistant Chief Minister in late 2014 I challenged you to deliver growth in government revenues through a stronger economy and you will no doubt share my pleasure at seeing this come to fruition in the most recent forecasts. Strong and stable public finances are the bedrock of any state and striking the right balance between positive economic growth, lean government and low tax is a formidable feat. You have contributed across all three elements and this offers the much needed capacity to invest appropriately in our social priorities.

I note your offer to resign your Assistant Chief Minister responsibilities at this challenging time and I recognise the humility and objectivity in your decision. It is with considerable personal regret that I accept your offer although with satisfaction that I note your many achievements. It has been my pleasure to work closely with you during my time as Chief Minister and I have valued your counsel on a wide range of issues. As we look to a future where our external environment is less predictable than I can recall in recent times, your wise head and steady hand will be a considerable loss.

Thank you once again for your unstinting service and support.

Yours sincerely



Senator Ian Gorst

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