

18 March 2010

Lord Carswell
Chairman
PO Box 1000
Highlands College
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Dear Lord Carswell

Review of the Roles of the Crown Officers

Firstly, I must apologise for the late response to your letter in which you requested the Comité des Chefs de Police to make a submission to the Panel on the role of the Attorney General. I would like to primarily inform you that the Honorary Police of Jersey values and respects the commitment provided by the Attorney General with regard to his role as its titular head.

The Comité des Chefs de Police who is the body responsible for the operational policing for their respective Parishes, relies upon the services provided by both the Attorney General and Solicitor General with regard to legal matters as and when they arise.

I have detailed below a number of reasons in support of the Attorney General continuing to hold the position as titular head of the Honorary Police:

a) Issues that occur in respect of complaints and discipline within the Honorary Police are referred to the Attorney General and dealt with accordingly at disciplinary hearings, which can result in the ultimate consequence of dismissal from the service. The Attorney General is also required to sanction the swearing in of officers wishing to join the Honorary Police and subsequently any officer wishing to resign before the end of his/her term of office is required to seek the prior permission of the Attorney General.

b) The Honorary Police is a voluntary body elected by the parishioners within their respective Parishes and is not considered a professional police force, albeit all officers are required to undertake the training as provided by the States of Jersey Police. It is important that the Attorney General remains as titular head because he has no legal involvement in operational policing and is therefore able to impartially execute the

responsibility of resolving complaints and disciplinary matters involving Honorary Police officers.

d) The Attorney General is also seen as the ultimate authority to whom all Centeniers are responsible with regard to the charging process within the Island. Whilst recognising the Attorney General is not actively involved in Parish Hall Enquiries, he nevertheless issues relevant guide lines and a general code of conduct for Centeniers to abide by when carrying out Parish Hall Enquiries.

e) As a professional lawyer, the office of the Attorney General is extremely well placed to advise and direct the honorary police and continues to provide a much appreciated service and invaluable support as and when it is required.

At a recent meeting of the Comité des Chefs de Police it was unanimously agreed that I should convey to you the wish of the Honorary Police that the Attorney General should remain as its titular head and continue to provide the guidance which contributes to the professional service the Honorary Police strives to provide for the Island of Jersey.

Yours sincerely

Centenier D Scaife
Chairman – Comité des Chefs de Police