

Dear Lord Carswell , Ladies and Gentlemen of the Panel,

May I as a member of the general public add my thoughts for your consideration.

1. The Role of Bailiff as President of the States.

- (a) The Bailiff as the senior Judge of the Royal Court, or appointed Deputies, should be, the most trustworthy individuals qualified to undertake this duty.
- (b) Politicians, on the other hand, are often regarded as the least trustworthy members of society, in some cases ranking even below that of Estate Agents.
- (c) Politicians are elected to represent their electorate and any such person placed in this role will or may deprive their constituents of that representational duty.
- (d) The relatively recent removal of the casting vote of the President, in the event of a tied vote, being replaced by an automatic retention of the status quo, removes any risk of a vote being taken over by an unelected representative.

2. The Role of Attorney and Solicitors General.

- (a) These Officers have a duty to advise political representatives of any relevant points of law, or the likely result of proposed legislation, whether in the House, in Committee or individually.
- (b) Officers are presumably appointed for their qualifications, trustworthiness, and experience and should be able to give their advice during debate or otherwise where this is appropriate.

As stated, Politicians due to their actions, are not normally regarded as the most trustworthy of society. The recent questioning of the role of Speaker Martin in the House of Commons, accused by some Members of the Opposition of political or personal bias whilst presiding over the debate on alleged corruption of Members of the House. These

concerns during the investigation of their financial claims, not to mention allegations concerning his own claims ably demonstrated this.

Judges and Crown Officers, on the other hand, could more easily removed from office if their actions brought them into disrepute, as was presumably the case involving the removal from office of former Deputy Bailiff Vernon Tomes.

A politician is elected to represent the people, not to preside, and I cannot see how such a presidency can be achieved, without inappropriate manipulation of Members or control of the debate itself.

The points above regarding the Attorney and Solicitors General are, I believe, sufficiently made.

I hope that any recommendations the Panel may make result in evolution rather than revolution. This Island has slowly evolved in the centuries since King John was careless enough to lose Normandy. We should not be required to slavishly follow the actions or procedures of other jurisdictions, no matter how closely associated, but proceed on the basis of what is right for a very small self governing community.

Thank you, yours faithfully,

Peter Davis.