

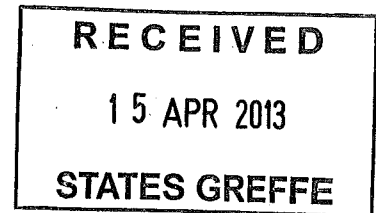
## Economic Development Department

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05 April 2013

Senator S Ferguson  
Chairman, Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel  
Scrutiny Office, States Greffe  
Morier House  
St Helier  
JE1 1DD



Dear Senator Ferguson

### **States of Jersey (Minister for External Relations) (Jersey) Regulations 201-**

Thank you for your letter of 11 March regarding the above draft Regulations and enclosing the Panel's Terms of Reference for the review. In response to your request, I submit my comments on the questions you posed.

#### *1. What is your overall view of the proposals?*

Jersey's relationship with the UK Government, the EU and its Member States and other international jurisdictions is of significant importance to the Island. As you are aware, as Minister for Economic Development, I have led a number of political and trade delegations, most recently to Israel, where I met senior political figureheads. In this context, I am a supporter of the External Relations function developed within the Chief Minister's Department and the subsequent appointment of an Assistant Minister with specific responsibility for that element of the Chief Minister's portfolio. I am of the opinion that a continued direct association with the Chief Minister adds both value and gravitas to Jersey's relationship with other jurisdictions.

#### *2. What consultation, if any, was undertaken with you during the development of the draft Regulations?*

There have been two Council of Ministers meetings which contained some discussion on the subject. One in May 2011 and the other in December 2012. Other than those instances there has been no formal consultation on the matter.

#### *3. What role do you currently play in the undertaking of Jersey's external relations?*

I actively managed relationships with Guernsey and the Isle of Man on issues within the Economic Development Portfolio, regularly meeting with Ministers and officials from both jurisdictions. For instance, in the area of air and sea transport policy I sit on a joint Jersey/Guernsey External Transport Group established to develop a coordinated and consistent policy position on the Islands' lifeline transport service.

I have an active role in political liaison with the UK Government on matters within the Economic Development portfolio. On specific issues such as e-gaming I have held detailed discussions with UK Ministers in both the DCMS and the MoJ. In addition I held discussions with Mike Penning, MP and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for

Transport responsible for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and all matters relating to HM Coastguard, merchant shipping and seafarers regarding shipping matters.

Consistent with the States Strategic Plan and the Economic Growth and Development Strategy, The Economic Development Department, through its 'Locate Jersey' team is actively encouraging export trade development and inward investment by new businesses from around the world. My role, as Minister for Economic Development, is to provide political leadership and representation to assist in the successful delivery of these objectives. Throughout my tenure as Minister for Economic Development, I have represented the Island on a number of high level delegations to the UK, Middle East and Far East. Through repeat visits, I have helped to establish the Island's profile and built networks within Governments that has greatly assisted in the development of a number of business opportunities.

As you will recall, a Common Policy for External Relations (R.140/2012) was presented to the States Assembly last November. Within the Policy, the Minister for Economic Development has a number of responsibilities including promoting Jersey's international identity and serving Jersey's best economic interests by promoting a strong, diversified economy.

*4. What impact, if any, will the proposals have on that role?*

The current role of Minister for Economic Development, with regard to external affairs is quite specific in promoting trade links and encouraging essential Inward Investment – this has and continues to work well within the current structure. The proposed new role of Minister for External Relations should not impact that of Minister for Economic Development.

*5. What impact would such an appointment have more generally?*

It is possible that at a time when Public opinion is strongly in favour of reducing this scale of government and reforming the public sector that this proposal will not be fully understood. However, provided costs are carefully controlled in the future the role itself offers an opportunity for the Island to represent itself more effectively on the international stage.

Yours sincerely



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**Minister for Economic Development**

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