

STATES OF JERSEY



JERSEY LIFEBOAT SERVICE: ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT LIFEBOAT STATION – PETITION

**Lodged au Greffe on 16th January 2018
by Senator S.C. Ferguson**

STATES GREFFE

PROPOSITION

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion –

to support the Jersey Independent Lifeboat Service Committee in establishing an independent Jersey Lifeboat Station, disassociated from the RNLI.

SENATOR S.C. FERGUSON

REPORT

During recent times the relationship between the local volunteer crew of the All Weather Life Boat (“AWLB”) and the management of the RNLI has become irreparably damaged. This culminated in the management of the RNLI removing the AWLB, George Sullivan, thereby removing offshore lifeboat cover for Jersey.

This petition does not seek to rehearse all the problems which have led up to this situation. Instead it is intended to concentrate on moving forward to establish an independent AWLB station in Jersey, supported by the local population and providing the lifeboat service for the Island, by the Island and financed by the Island.

A steering Committee was formed, under the joint chairmanship of former Connétable Phil Rondel and Mr. Paul Battrick, M.B.E., in order to set up the organisation required to provide the service. This will be led by an Association set up under the *Loi (1862) sur les teneures en fidéicommis et l'incorporation d'associations*. An executive committee will be formed to supervise the operations of the organisation.

For a considerable number of years, the Island of Jersey has been a net contributor to the RNLI in support of the Lifeboat Service. It is intended that the funds raised by this organisation will be held in the Island and used within the Island wherever possible.

At the same time, we are developing links with many of the 70 or so Independent Lifeboat Stations in the British Isles. A prime example is Caister Lifeboat in Norfolk. Similarly, we are extending our links with the French organisation for safety at sea, the Société Nationale de Sauvetage en Mer.

As a Steering Committee, we are aware of our responsibilities in ensuring that the Independent Lifeboat both complies with best practice and procedures, and plays its part in participating in the overall Search and Rescue System organisation used in this area of the French and Channel Island waters.

We are asking the States to support the Committee in setting up the Independent Lifeboat Station, and to support an organisation set up by Islanders for Islanders and manned by Islanders.

Financial and manpower implications

There are no financial or manpower implications for the States as a consequence of adopting this proposition as we are not asking for financial support; we are only asking for local recognition as an important part of the Jersey contribution to the search and rescue facilities of the area.

