

# STATES OF JERSEY



## SOCIAL SECURITY TRIBUNAL: APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR

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Lodged au Greffe on 4th March 2021  
by the Minister for Social Security  
Earliest date for debate: 20th April 2021

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STATES GREFFE

## **PROPOSITION**

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

to appoint, in accordance with Article 33A of the Social Security (Jersey) Law 1974, further to a process overseen by the Jersey Appointments Commission, the following person as Deputy Chair of the Social Security Tribunal for the period stated against their name –

Advocate Barbara Corbett

5 years

**MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY**

## REPORT

Article 8 of the Social Security (Determination of Claims and Questions) (Jersey) Order 1974 (as amended) provides for the constitution of the Social Security Tribunal.

The Social Security Tribunal (SST) has been in place since 1974 and hears appeals on a range of benefits under the Social Security Law, as well aspects of other legislation administered by Customer and Local Services, such as the Income Support and Health Insurance Laws.

The Tribunal will review all facts placed before and may confirm, reverse or vary the decision made by Determining Officers.

The constitution of the Social Security Tribunal comprises a Chair or Deputy Chair holding a qualification in law, and two lay members from a panel of up to 12 other members.

This report discusses the appointment of the Deputy Chair.

The Minister is responsible for the constitution of three different Appeal panels, the Social Security Medical Appeal Tribunal (SSMAT), The Social Security Tribunal (SST) and the Income Support Medical Appeal Tribunal (ISMAT). The role of Chair and Deputy Chair has been developed across all three Tribunals to ensure consistency of process and decision-making and to further support the development of a Tribunals Service.

The Social Security (Determination of Claims and Questions) (Jersey) Order 1974 (as amended) provides that members of the Tribunal are appointed by the States on the recommendation of the Minister.

A formal recruitment process overseen by the Appointments Commission has been undertaken by the Judicial Greffe. Further to this, subject to States approval, it is proposed to appoint Advocate Barbara Corbett as Deputy Chair to the SST for a five-year period from the date of States debate.

Advocate Barbara Corbett is senior and founding partner of Corbett Le Quesne, a specialist family law firm. Prior to coming to Jersey to work in 2007, Advocate Corbett was a family law solicitor and partner at Brethertons in Rugby and before that, a welfare rights officer and Citizens' Advice Bureau advisor. She came to Jersey to set up the Family Law department at litigation firm Hanson Renouf, qualifying as an advocate in 2010. Advocate Corbett is a member of the Jersey Mental Health Review Board panel of advocates and the Jersey Children Panel. She has an LLM 'Master of Laws' in Welfare Law from the University of Leicester and has experience of working with a wide range of family law clients both locally and internationally. She is a qualified mediator, collaborative lawyer, family law arbitrator, a fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers, a Law Commissioner and a former member of the English Law Society's Family Law Committee.

**Financial and manpower implications**

There are no financial or manpower implications regarding the appointment of the Tribunal Deputy Chair.