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# Minister for External Relations

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## Ministerial Report

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September 2013 – January 2015

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R.15/2015

## Minister for External Relations

### Report on the Workings of the Ministry of External Relations

September 2013 – January 2015

**Foreword** – *by Senator Sir Philip Bailhache, Minister for External Relations*



The past year and a half has been notable for a number of achievements, particularly the establishment of the government office in London, the removal of Jersey from a French blacklist of jurisdictions, and the continued engagement with individual governments and relevant institutions. This excellent work demonstrates Jersey's global standing as a cooperative jurisdiction complying with international multilateral standards.

The Island welcomed many distinguished visitors over the past year and a half, and ministers have carried out a series of visits abroad in order to spread understanding of Jersey's unique identity.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the Chief Minister and the Assistant Chief Minister with responsibility for financial services, digital, competition, and innovation, and to the officers within the ministry for their advice and support over these past months.

I hope this report will be helpful in explaining the work undertaken on behalf of the Island by those engaged in the conduct of external relations.

## I. Introduction

The Minister for External Relations undertook to provide a report on his ministry's work following the establishment of the post of Minister for External Relations on 24 September 2013.

This report summarises key events and achievements. It follows the framework of the Common Policy for External Relations, agreed by the Council of Ministers in October 2012, and presented to the States Assembly in November 2012 (R.140/2012) (Appendix A). This report also summarises readily identifiable budgets devoted to the conduct of Jersey's external relations across government (Appendix B).

Jersey is neither part of the United Kingdom nor the European Union (except to a limited extent under Protocol 3 of the Treaty of Accession of the United Kingdom). Jersey is a self-governing democratic country but is not a sovereign state and cannot in general bind itself internationally without the consent of HM Government<sup>1</sup>.

Under a letter of entrustment dated 1 December 2003, HM Government recognised that Jersey could negotiate and conclude tax information exchange agreements (TIEAs) and double taxation agreements (DTAs) that provided for the exchange of information on tax matters to the OECD standard.

The governments of the United Kingdom and Jersey signed a framework agreement on 1 May 2007 which recognised that Jersey had an international identity which was distinct from the United Kingdom's and that Her Majesty's Government supported the principle of Jersey further developing its international identity.

The States of Jersey (Minister for External Relations) (Jersey) Regulations 2013 established the post of Minister for External Relations, replacing the position of Assistant Chief Minister with responsibilities for external relations.

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<sup>1</sup> "The conduct of foreign affairs is a prerogative of the Sovereign; these powers are exercised on the Sovereign's behalf by ministers of Her Majesty's Government. Constitutionally, the United Kingdom is responsible for the Crown Dependencies' defence and representation internationally" – *The Cabinet Manual*

## II. Common Policy on External Relations

This report covers the 16 areas of the Common Policy on External Relations, as agreed by the Council of Ministers, for the period September 2013 to January 2015.

### 1) Engage positively with the United Kingdom Government, Whitehall departments and Parliament

(i) The Government of Jersey London Office was established in September 2013<sup>2</sup>, and initiated a comprehensive programme of engagement with parliamentarians, government officials, political advisors and members of the diplomatic community.

(ii) The Jersey London Office has supported Jersey's interaction with the UK Government, including on:

accelerating the process of obtaining UK consent for secondary fisheries legislation, with a view to removing the need for such consent;

agreeing new procedures with the UK Intellectual Property Office to expedite the Island signing up to a series of important international agreements; and

obtaining special dispensation from the UK Department for Education to enable online literacy and numeracy tests for Initial Teacher Training candidates to take place in Jersey, avoiding the need to travel to the UK;

(iii) The Jersey London Office has also:

facilitated a series of ministerial visits within the UK to engage productively with UK ministers, their departments and cross-party contacts to build understanding of Jersey's position and interests;

fostered Jersey's relationship with the Channel Islands' All Party Parliamentary Group (an interest group of MPs and members of the House of Lords) to create a network of supporters for Jersey within the UK Parliament; and

hosted the inaugural Jersey Day in London on 7 July 2014, which showcased local produce. The event was a useful engagement opportunity for Jersey ministers to meet key parliamentarians, UK government officials and the diplomatic and business communities in London. Jersey Day was intended to be

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<sup>2</sup> The Jersey London Office is located at No. 2 Queen Anne's Gate Building, London SW1H 9BP

the first of an annual set of events to raise Jersey's profile across key stakeholder groups.

- (iv) Ministers attended the main United Kingdom party political conferences in 2013 and 2014. Meetings were held with a number of ministers, shadow ministers, MPs, and policy advisers.

2) Be a good neighbour, on the basis of reciprocity, to the United Kingdom, France, and other European States, promoting and protecting Jersey's interest through the Channel Islands' Brussels Office (CIBO)

**European Union**

- (i) The Channel Islands Brussels Office (CIBO) has continued to fulfil a series of essential roles including widening the Channel Islands' networks among EU decision makers, raising awareness of the bailiwicks' commitments to financial stability and tax transparency, and raising awareness of their contribution to growth in the European economy.
- (ii) In January 2014 the Chief Ministers of Guernsey and Jersey held joint discussions with key European influencers. Meetings included representatives from the main EU institutions, including the European Parliament, the European Commission and representatives of Member States (the Council). In addition, EU issues were discussed with governments and regulators during visits by officials to Denmark, Ireland, Austria, and Latvia.



The Chief Ministers of Guernsey and Jersey at the European Parliament

(iii) Over the past 12 months, in the field of tax and financial services, CIBO has:

provided timely advice and information on the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID) in preparation for negotiations to secure equivalent status for both Islands;

assessed the implications of banking union for Channel Islands interests, including the EU Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive, and coordinating engagement with the EU Commission;

led a series of technical meetings with the European Commission on the treatment of trusts under the fourth Anti Money Laundering Directive;

supported engagement on, and analysis of, key tax dossiers such as the revisions of the EU Savings Directive and the Administrative Cooperation Directive; and

coordinated engagement with the UK Payments Council and the European Payments Council (EPC) on the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) which has cleared the way for a formal application by interested banks in the Channel Islands, once the necessary domestic legislation is in place.

(iv) CIBO has also continued to identify wider EU initiatives that affect the Channel Islands as a consequence either of Protocol 3, of existing international commitments, or of domestic policy initiatives, and has led relevant dialogue with the EU institutions. Specific developments included:

protecting the Channel Islands' interests in negotiations on the revision of EU data protection standards; and

timely implementation of new EU sanctions. CIBO secured recognition from EU member states of the islands' commitments on sanctions and asset recovery.

(v) Securing amendments to EU aviation emissions trading legislation (*excluding flights to/from the Channel Islands until at least 2017*), and obtaining endorsement of the Channel Islands' airport security protocols by the EU Commission in April 2014.

(vi) Securing approval from the EU Commission of a proposed cattle disease testing programme.

(vii) Exploring options for maintaining an investment protection agreement with Singapore after the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement enters into force.

(viii) Providing further advice and analysis on the opportunities for the Channel Islands to become involved in EU-funded cross border projects between English and French partners in the Channel region.

## France

- (ix) A significant ministerial achievement was the removal of Jersey from a French blacklist of jurisdictions in December 2013. This was achieved by addressing a small number of outstanding requests for tax information, by modifying regulations dealing with tax information requests, and through ministerial dialogue.
- (x) The Island's presence in France has been enhanced by the establishment in June 2014 of a joint Channel Islands representative office in Caen, the Bureau des Isles Anglo-Normandes (BIAN), to replace the Bureau de Jersey.
- (xi) The Minister for External Relations led a delegation to meet the Groupes d'Etudes des Isles Anglo-Normandes at the Assemblée Nationale in Paris, to discuss Jersey's cooperative approach to tax information exchange (February 2014).



The Jersey delegation with members of the Groupes d'Etudes des Isles Anglo Normandes

- (xii) The Minister and the then Assistant Minister for Economic Development (Deputy Carolyn Labey) attended the Salon d'Agriculture in Paris on 22/23 February, 2014 (Europe's leading agriculture exhibition showcasing produce from the different regions of France) supporting Jersey's agricultural industry.
- (xiii) Jersey enhanced engagement with representatives from Brittany and Normandy through discussions with Président Tourenne of the Ile de Vilaine in Cancale (May 2014), a meeting with the Vice-Président du Basse-Normandie (May 2014), and by hosting a meeting of the representatives of the Préfet de Bretagne (July 2014).
- (xiv) Jersey's Liberation Day in 2014 was notable as the first time that the French Consul General, Mr Olivier Chambard; the Président du Basse-Normandie, Mr Laurent

Beauvais; the Préfet de la Manche, Madame Danièle Polvé-Montmasson; and the Président du Conseil General de la Manche, Mr Jean-François Le Grand met as a group.

3) Maintain positive relations with the Bailiwick of Guernsey and the Isle of Man, co-ordinating on matters of mutual interest in external relations, and working with the Bailiwick of Guernsey to deliver common services to the benefit of the people of the Channel Islands

- (i) Jersey ministers collaborated with their counterparts in Guernsey and the Isle of Man at the British Irish Council Leaders' Summit hosted by Jersey in November 2013. There have also been tripartite and bilateral meetings concerning matters such as tax, health and social services, aviation and maritime affairs, financial risk strategies, and our relationship with the UK and the EU.
- (ii) Pan-island meetings (involving both Jersey and Guernsey) were held with UK ministers, including the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and the Minister for Europe.
- (iii) In December 2013 a joint Channel Islands reception in the House of Commons, showcasing the culture and economies of the islands, was attended by significant numbers of parliamentarians.
- (iv) Work continues on developing a closer working relationship with the Bailiwick of Guernsey on matters of common interest, including marine conservation.
- (v) The Minister for External Relations paid a visit to Sark in July 2014 to discuss matters of mutual interest.

4) Promote international cultural relations by building on Jersey's shared history and longstanding links around the world

- (i) A reception hosted by the Jersey London Office for the Young Diplomats Association was attended by over 100 members of the diplomatic community and promoted Jersey's interests, including the Island's cultural heritage. Delegates were offered Jersey food and drink and were entertained by Frankie Davies, a Jersey-born singer.
- (ii) The Chief Minister, Senator Ian Gorst, attended the seventieth anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy Remembrance Day with other leaders in Normandy on 6 June 2014.





**Young Diplomats Association Reception – Their Excellences the El Salvadorian and Indonesian Ambassadors with Kate Nutt, Head of London Office**

(iii) The ministry has been involved with political representation at:

the thirtieth anniversary edition of the Tour des Ports de la Manche. More than 100 yachts and some 600 crew on the Jersey leg of the prestigious race;

the Commonwealth Games; and

the Edinburgh Culture Summit, which was attended by the Assistant Minister for Education, Sport and Culture (Deputy Rod Bryans).

5) Sustain a strong international profile, supported by relevant international agreements and by relationships with the international diplomatic community, to enhance recognition of Jersey's commitment to international standards

(i) The Minister of External Relations hosted a series of meetings with representatives from the diplomatic community in London, including heads of mission from Germany, Finland, Lithuania, Malta and Portugal.

(ii) The Island hosted a visit by 18 representatives from the Arab Ambassadors' Council with the purpose of building relations and improving trade, tourism and cultural links (22 – 23 May 2014) led by the UAE Ambassador.



**The Chief Minister, the Bailiff, and members of the Arab Ambassadors' Council**

(iii) The Island supported international tax standards through a number of channels, notably:

the St Petersburg G20 Summit Leaders Declaration in September 2013 which covered tax avoidance by multinational companies, tax information exchange, and the need to work with developing countries;

through joint statements issued on the 28 November 2013 (by 36 countries) and March 2014 (by 44 countries) committing to the early adoption of the Common Reporting Standard on automatic exchange of information, and adopted by the G20 Finance Ministers in Sydney on 23/24 February 2014;

with the United States of America through an inter-governmental agreement to facilitate the reporting of relevant financial information held in the Island (Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act - FATCA); and

a similar arrangement with the United Kingdom.

(iv) In accordance with its international obligations, Jersey has submitted a series of periodic reports over the past 12 months including submissions relating to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of Forms of Racial Discrimination; and an annual report to the International Labour Organisation.

(v) In the first half of 2014, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was extended to Jersey.

- 6) Engage with multilateral institutions, including the European Union, Council of Europe, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Trade Organisation (WTO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, to contribute to the development of international policy



**The Assistant Chief Minister at the Euromoney Qatar Conference 2014**

- (i) In October 2013 the Minister for Treasury and Resources, Senator Philip Ozouf, with officials, attended the Commonwealth Finance Ministers meeting, the annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Washington.
- (ii) Jersey joined the OECD Multilateral Convention on Mutual Assistance in Tax Matters, with effect from 1 June 2014. As provided for by the convention, Jersey is open to approaches from other parties to the convention to enter into a mutual agreement on the automatic exchange of information (AEOI). Jersey has already signed 35 tax information exchange agreements (TIEAs) and eight double taxation agreements (DTAs), of which 29 TIEAs and 7 DTAs are in force.
- (iii) Jersey has been appointed as a vice-chair of the AEOI Working Group of the OECD Global Forum, which will monitor the implementation of the new international standard, as requested by the G20. This is a reflection of Jersey's international standing as a cooperative jurisdiction complying with international standards.
- (iv) In January 2015 the Island received a team of assessors from Moneyval – a body of the Council of Europe – to review the Island's compliance with international anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism standards (AML/CFT) set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

- (v) Jersey has engaged actively with international efforts to recover misappropriated assets, including participation in the Arab Forum on Asset Recovery, the World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR), and the Ukraine Forum on Asset Recovery.

7) Participate actively in the British Irish Council

- (i) Jersey is an active member of the British Irish Council (BIC), which was established as part of the multi-party agreement reached in Belfast on 10 April 1998. The Ministry of External Relations worked closely with the BIC secretariat, member administrations, and other Jersey government departments to coordinate the Island's position within BIC at summit, ministerial and work stream meetings.
- (ii) In November 2013, Jersey hosted the BIC Leaders' Summit meeting at which all eight member administrations were present. The council discussed the economic situation in the member administrations with a particular focus on policy initiatives and programmes aimed at helping young people into employment.



The **21st British Irish Council** Leaders' Summit in Jersey

- (iii) Jersey promoted, and now leads, a new creative industries work sector. This work sector reflects the increasing global recognition of the economic and social potential of the cultural economy, such as the new digital industries.
- (iv) The Chief Minister and the Minister for Transport and Technical Services (Deputy Kevin Lewis) attended the June 2014 BIC Summit in Guernsey, and the Chief Minister and Assistant Chief Minister (Senator Paul Routier) attended the November BIC Summit in the Isle of Man.

(v) The Minister for Housing (Deputy Andrew Green) attended a housing ministerial meeting in October 2013. The Minister for Health and Social Services (Deputy Anne Pryke) attended the ministerial meeting of the BIC's sectorial group on the misuse of substances in June 2014.

8) Promote Jersey's relationship with existing and emerging major economies, and develop the Island's international reputation as a centre of excellence and an outstanding place to do business

(i) A means by which ministers (principally, the Chief Minister, the Minister for External Relations, the Minister for Economic Development, the Minister for Treasury and Resources and the Assistant Chief Minister for Financial Services) promote Jersey's interests is through their personal engagement with foreign government ministers, ambassadors and officials.

(ii) Ministers have been engaged in several initiatives:

October 2013:

a visit to UAE/GC, to strengthen bilateral relations and forge closer diplomatic and business links in the region;

December 2013:

a visit to Israel to attend a leading economic conference and strengthen ties in the region. Meeting between the Chief Minister and the President of Israel;

a visit to Paris for discussion of the French Government's listing of Jersey as a non-cooperative jurisdiction;

a visit to Qatar by the Treasury Minister to attend the "Euromoney" Conference; and

a visit to Jersey by the Danish Ambassador to strengthen bilateral relations with an EU member state.

January 2014:

Guernsey's and Jersey's Chief Ministers held joint discussions with key European influencers to raise awareness of the bailiwicks' commitments to financial stability and tax transparency, and of their contribution to growth in the European economy;



**The Minister for External Relations visiting Abu Dhabi**

a visit to Lisbon to strengthen relations with an EU member state that has a large community of Portuguese citizens living in Jersey;

a visit to Jersey by the Turkish Ambassador to develop bilateral relations and explain Jersey's status as a IFC and its relationship with the City of London;

a meeting with Irish Ambassador to continue to build on good relations with a key EU Member State;

a meeting with the Romanian Ambassador to consider an agreement on the recognition of driving licenses, and progress on negotiating a tax agreement (TIEA); and

a meeting with delegates and government officials attending the China-British Business Council to discuss business links between Jersey and China including Jersey Dairy exports.

**February 2014:**

a meeting with the Office for Trade and Economic Affairs at the Embassy of Israel and UK Israel Business to strengthen business links especially with Israel's well-established technology sector; and

a meeting with the Groupes d'Etudes des Isles Anglo-Normandes at the Assemblée Nationale in Paris to discuss Jersey's cooperative approach to tax information exchange.

March 2014:

a meeting with the Lithuanian Ambassador to discuss progress regarding a TIEA, and EU issues; and

a meeting with the Kuwaiti Ambassador to secure the Ambassador's support for Jersey's engagement with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the wider Arab Ambassadors' Council (AAC).

April 2014:

a visit to Jersey by the Japanese Ambassador to develop existing trade links and seek new market opportunities;

a visit to China to strengthen trade links in the financial services and dairy industries, tourism to Jersey, and educational ties;

a visit to Malta to strengthen bilateral relations with an EU member state and discuss matters beneficial to both island communities; and

a meeting with the AAC to pursue business / trade opportunities;

May 2014:

a meeting with the Polish Ambassador to strengthen bilateral relations with an EU member state with a significant community living in Jersey;

a visit to Jersey by the AAC to strengthen relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and to demonstrate the Island's standing as an international finance centre, and its relationship with the City of London;

a visit to UAE to develop bilateral and business relations with the Emirates; and

a visit to Qatar and Saudi Arabia to develop bilateral relations. The Treasury Minister (Senator Philip Ozouf) spoke at the Euromoney Conference - and held meetings with ministers and UK trade officials in Qatar.

June 2014:

a visit to Madeira to deepen ties between Madeira and Jersey and discuss matters of mutual interest to both communities;

a meeting with the Lesotho High Commissioner; an introductory meeting to establish bilateral diplomatic relations;

a meeting with the Nigerian High Commissioner to provide an introduction to the Island, develop opportunities for economic and trade links, and support negotiations towards a double taxation agreement (DTA); and

a meeting with the Swaziland High Commissioner; an introductory meeting to establish bilateral diplomatic relations.



**The Minister for Economic Development met Premier Li Keqiang of China at the UK-China Business Dinner sponsored by Locate Jersey**

July 2014:

a meeting with the French Ambassador to reinforce bilateral relations with France;

a meeting with the South African High Commissioner to explore opportunities for increasing trade and economic links;

a meeting with the Indian High Commissioner to explore opportunities for increasing trade and economic links; and

a meeting with the Secretary General of the Commonwealth to provide an overview of Jersey's involvement with the Commonwealth and explore further areas for co-operation.

August 2014:

a visit to Jersey by the Chinese Ambassador a key visit promoting business and trade (including Jersey Dairy), education and cultural links.



## September 2014

a visit to Jersey by the Romanian Ambassador to sign a reciprocal driving licence agreement and to meet members of the Romanian community living in Jersey;

a visit to Jersey by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade aimed at promoting trade between Jersey and China; and

a visit to Normandy to attend the World Equestrian Games furthering relations with Lower and Upper Normandy and engagement with French ministers.

## October 2014:

a visit to Berlin to attend OECD Global Forum to attend the OECD Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes and to sign as part of the Early Adopters' Group a Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement.

## November 2014:

a meeting with the new French Ambassador; an initial meeting to communicate Jersey's wish to maintain and develop relations with central government in Paris;

a visit to Jersey by the New Zealand High Commissioner to develop Jersey's relationship with a key commonwealth country. The High Commissioner is a well-respected member of the London diplomatic community with experience as a government minister, parliamentary speaker and New Zealand Dairy Marketing Board manager

a visit to Jersey by the Nigerian High Commissioner to develop relationships with Nigeria's fast-growing financial and professional services and establish support for a ministerial visit to Abuja;

a visit to Jersey by the Indian Deputy High Commissioner during preparations for the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth in Jersey;

a visit to the Euromoney Qatar Conference to further raise Jersey's profile.

## December 2014:

a visit by a delegation from the Rwandan High Commissioner to discuss possible TIEA and further diplomatic and trade relations.

9) Implement UN sanctions and EU restrictive measures in support of international objectives to address activities or policies that threaten the international rule of law, human rights, respect for democratic principles or international peace and security, or to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorists and terrorist acts

- (i) The Minister for External Relations introduced more than 30 sanction orders in respect of Syria, Tunisia, Libya, Iran, Belarus, North Korea, Guinea and Ivory Coast and implemented new sanctions in respect of the Central African Republic, Ukraine, Crimea and Sevastopol and Russia.
- (ii) A key development has been the adoption of a new European Union Legislation (Implementation) (Jersey) Law 2014, which updates the 1996 law and will enable the more efficient implementation of sanction measures in future.
- (iii) Working relations with the European External Action Service (EAS), the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office and HM Treasury sanctions teams have been developed to ensure the timely implementation of UN and EU sanctions measures.
- (iv) In May 2014, the States Assembly agreed that the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court should be extended to the Island, a court that tries persons of the most serious crimes of international concern.

10) Assist in the identification, monitoring and reduction of external systemic risk to the Jersey economy

- (i) An interim Financial Stability Board has been established to coordinate strategies for dealing with threats to financial stability.

11) Ensure that Jersey is prepared for external change that may affect the Island's formal relationship with the United Kingdom and/or European Union

- (i) CIBO has coordinated the Channel Islands' engagement, together with the Isle of Man, in the UK government's review of the balance of competences, which is an evidence-based assessment of the impact of current EU powers or competences.
- (ii) Jersey and Guernsey have used their engagement with the review to enhance understanding among Whitehall departments and UK ministers of the way in which the different EU competences impact on the Channel Islands, and thus of the interests which are at stake in the event of any change to the balance of those competences. CIBO, on behalf of both governments, has submitted evidence, including for the review by HM Treasury of the free movement of capital.

(iii) The ongoing debate in the UK about its future relationship with the EU is a matter of importance to the Channel Islands. The governments of both islands have signified that, although they themselves are not looking for any change to their constitutional or trading relationship with either the UK or the EU, the islands must be prepared for any externally driven change and ensure that their interests are protected.

(iv) Jersey London Office has provided updates and analysis on political developments in the UK, to ensure Jersey ministers are fully apprised of the potential impact on Jersey of any changes. This has included observations and engagement advice on the evolving UK political landscape and significant events such as the Scottish referendum.

12) Share Jersey's experience as a well-run small island state and international financial centre with other countries and seek to learn from the success of others

(i) Jersey London Office held a joint event with the Association of Economic Representatives in London, with economic representatives from ten countries, which facilitated promotion of Jersey's financial services industry, the Island's commitment to international standards, and position as a centre of excellence.

(ii) Technical assistance meetings have been held with the Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and with diplomatic contacts (both at high commissioner and official level) to progress Jersey's role in providing technical assistance to developing nations, with a particular emphasis on African states.

(iii) The Ministry for External Relations hosted the Governor (Designate) of the British Virgin Islands in June 2014 to explain the Island's financial compliance regime and other legal and regulatory issues prior to him taking up his post.

(iv) The Ministry hosted officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Overseas Territories Directorate to improve their knowledge on a range of issues including the environment, waste management, public finance, civil service reform, recruitment, the sustainability of skills, emergency/contingency planning, and shared services.

(v) Jersey hosted a roundtable discussion in the Houses of Parliament on 26 November 2014 examining the relationship between international finance centres and developing countries. The meeting was attended by parliamentarians, diplomats, representatives from the financial community and non-governmental organisations. The roundtable followed the launch by Jersey Finance Limited of the Capital Economics Report on Jersey's Value to Africa.

13) Engage in poverty reduction and capacity building activities in developing countries by supporting the work of the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission, and through technical assistance

- (i) The Jersey Overseas Aid Commission manages monies voted annually by the States of Jersey for overseas aid. Further detail of its aid programme and grants issued for 2013/2014 are available at [www.jerseyoverseasaid.org.je](http://www.jerseyoverseasaid.org.je).

14) Support the Law Officers' Department in the provision of mutual legal assistance to other countries and in the lawful recovery and return and/or sharing of forfeited or confiscated assets, where reciprocal agreements exist

- (i) A Jersey asset recovery taskforce was established in 2013 to coordinate the Island's activity as part of an international effort to identify and recover illicitly obtained assets linked to Arab Spring jurisdictions. This work remains ongoing.

15) Build on the current, active participation in the Commonwealth; through the secretariat, Law Association, Parliamentary Association, and other Commonwealth bodies

- (i) The Minister for External Relations met His Excellency Mr Kamallesh Sharma, Secretary General of the Commonwealth, in July 2014 to consider ways for further involvement by Jersey in Commonwealth activities.
- (ii) The Ministry for External Relations provided advice and assistance to States Members where requested, including:

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association:

British Islands and Mediterranean Region Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Inaugural Conference, Edinburgh, March 2014;

44th Conference of the British Islands and Mediterranean Region, Cardiff, May 2014; and

Pan-Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference, London, June 2014;

- (iii) At the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, August 2014, a number of ministerial meetings were held with UK politicians and members of the diplomatic community.
- (iv) Jersey was the first 'home' territory to receive the Queen's Baton on its journey around the world to the Commonwealth Games. A reception event in Jersey was attended by the UK Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP.

16) Support the work of members of the States Assembly with the Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie and the British-Irish Parliamentary

- (i) The Ministry of External Relations provided advice and assistance to States Members where requested, including:

Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie:

Assemblée Régionale (Regional Conference), Europe, Chisinau, Moldova, November 2013;

Réseau des Femmes parlementaires, (Women parliamentarians network), Brussels, December 2013;

Conférence des Présidents de la Région Europe (European Presidents conference) Bucharest et Suceava, March 2014; and

British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly:

47<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session, London, October 2013.

48<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session, London, March 2014

49<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session, London/Flanders, October 2014

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**Appendices**

- A. External Relations: Common Policy, presented to the States on 23 November 2012 by the Council of Minister (R.140/2012) – [External Relations: Common Policy](#)
- B. Budgets devoted to external relations by Government and the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission as of 2014.

## Appendix A

### STATES OF JERSEY - EXTERNAL RELATIONS: COMMON POLICY

Presented to the States on 23 November 2012 by the Council of Ministers (R.140/2012)

#### REPORT

*The Council of Ministers,*

*Noting* that the functions of the Chief Minister shall include conducting external relations in accordance with the common policy agreed by the Council of Ministers;

*Recalling* the distinct history of Jersey, which was part of the Duchy of Normandy from 933 AD through the conquest of England in 1066, and elected to remain loyal to the English Crown when King John lost Normandy in 1204, and was granted its Royal Seal in 1279;

*Noting further* that Jersey is not a sovereign state and cannot in general bind itself internationally without the consent of the sovereign state, but has had domestic autonomy since 1204, and acquired fiscal autonomy through a series of Royal Charters, and is a self-governing, democratic country with the power of self-determination;

*Bearing in mind* the framework for developing the international identity of Jersey signed by the United Kingdom and Jersey on 1st May 2007, in particular that Jersey has an international identity which is different from that of the United Kingdom and that the United Kingdom supports the principle of Jersey further developing its international identity;

*Observing* the recommendations of the Second Interim Report of the Constitution Review Group presented to the States Assembly on 27th June 2008 by the Council of Ministers, noting that it is not Government policy to seek independence from the United Kingdom, but rather to ensure that Jersey is prepared if it were in the best interests of Islanders to do so;

*Acknowledging* that Jersey has the right, under terms of the entrustment from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland dated 23rd November 2009, to negotiate and conclude Tax Information Exchange Agreements, and other agreements relating to taxation that provide for exchange of information on tax matters to the OECD standard; and that Jersey was also entrusted on 20th August 2012 to conclude an agreement with the Government of the United States of America regarding the sharing of legally confiscated or forfeited assets;

*Recognising* that international identity is developed effectively through meeting international standards and obligations;

*Noting* the Government of the United Kingdom's response to the House of Commons Justice Select Committee's report on the Crown Dependencies (November 2010), in particular Jersey's

status as a Dependency of the British Crown, that is neither part of the United Kingdom, nor, except to a limited extent, the European Union;

*Noting also* from the same document that the Government of the United Kingdom agrees with the increased use of entrustment, whereby the Crown Dependencies are granted powers to negotiate treaties on their own behalf:

1. *Decides* on the following principles for the conduct of external relations, namely to:

- I. Protect Jersey's unique constitution, and its domestic and fiscal autonomy;
- II. Promote Jersey's international identity and good reputation as a responsible country committed to the rule of law, international standards, and respect for internationally recognised human and labour rights;
- III. Serve Jersey's best economic interests by promoting a strong, diversified economy, safeguarding its competitive position and promoting growth through trade and inward investment;
- IV. Promote Jersey's national and cultural identity abroad;
- V. Join with others in supporting sustainable development and poverty reduction in developing countries;
- VI. Abide by internationally agreed standards of environmental stewardship.

2. *Also decides*, in accordance with these principles, to:

- (i) Engage positively with the UK Government, Whitehall departments and Parliament;
- (ii) Be a good neighbour, on the basis of reciprocity, to the United Kingdom, France and other European States, promoting and protecting Jersey's interests in Europe through the Channel Islands Brussels Office;
- (iii) Maintain positive relations with the Bailiwick of Guernsey and the Isle of Man, co-ordinating on matters of mutual interest in external relations, and working with the Bailiwick of Guernsey to deliver common services to the benefit of the people of the Channel Islands;
- (iv) Promote international cultural relations by building on Jersey's shared history and longstanding links around the world;
- (v) Sustain a strong international profile, supported by relevant international agreements and by relationships with the international

diplomatic community, to enhance recognition of Jersey's commitment to international standards;

- (vi) Engage with multilateral institutions, including the European Union, Council of Europe, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Trade Organisation (WTO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, to contribute to the development of international policy;
- (vii) Participate actively in the British Irish Council;
- (viii) Promote Jersey's relationship with existing and emerging major economies, and develop the Island's international reputation as a centre of excellence and an outstanding place to do business;
- (ix) Implement UN sanctions and EU restrictive measures in support of international objectives to address activities or policies that threaten the international rule of law, human rights, respect for democratic principles or international peace and security, or to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorists and terrorist acts;
- (x) Assist in the identification, monitoring and reduction of external systemic risk to the Jersey economy;
- (xi) Ensure that Jersey is prepared for external change that may affect the Island's formal relationship with the United Kingdom and/or European Union;
- (xii) Share Jersey's experience as a well-run small island state and international financial centre with other countries and seek to learn from the success of others;
- (xiii) Engage in poverty reduction and capacity building activities in developing countries by supporting the work of the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission, and through technical assistance;
- (xiv) Support the Law Officers' Department in the provision of Mutual Legal Assistance to other countries and in the lawful recovery and return and/or sharing of forfeited or confiscated assets, where reciprocal agreements exist;



- (xv) Build on the current, active participation in the Commonwealth, through the Secretariat, Law Association, Parliamentary Association and other Commonwealth bodies;
- (xvi) Support the work of Members of the States Assembly with the Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie and the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly.

## Appendix B

In accordance with the provisions of the Public Finance (Jersey) Law 2005, expenditure for the Ministry of External Relations is encompassed within the Chief Minister's Department's budget.

The report summarises the readily identifiable budgets devoted broadly to the conduct of Jersey's external relations across government and government funded agencies.

To assist the reader, and by way of explanation, this report refers to 2014 full year spend only.

Department/Agency	2014 Revenue Expenditure £	Note
Ministry for External Relations	2,053,600	MTFP
Economic Development	165,000	Locate Jersey – off Island visits
Financial Services Unit	120,000	Official visits programme inclusive of external relations costs
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission	9,794,200	MTFP
Parliamentary Associations (CPA, APF, BIPA)	81,000	Administered by the States Greffe on behalf of the States Assembly

Note: *the Offices of HE the Lieutenant Governor and the Bailiff also include some resources used to support the Island's external relations principally around their hosting of official visitors to the Island which have not been listed separately above.*