

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMITÉ DES CONNÉTABLES
BY SENATOR S.Y. MÉZEC
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2018**

Question

Further to this year's elections to the office of Procureur du Bien Public, will the Chairman advise –

- (a) how these elections were promoted by the Parishes in advance of the nomination meetings, beyond any statutorily required notice in the Jersey Gazette;
- (b) what the results of these nomination meetings were;
- (c) before this question was submitted, what notifications, if any, were published by the Parishes to announce the results of these nomination meetings; and
- (d) what plans, if any, does the Comité have to improve public engagement with elections for Procureur?

Answer

There are two **Procureurs du Bien Public** in each Parish; each serves a 3-year term of office and one is elected every 18 months.

The Procureur du Bien Public acts as a public trustee and is elected at a public election. They maintain an oversight of Parish finances and –

- have a duty to represent the Parish in the care of Parish property;
- have a duty to report to the Principals and Officers of the Parish any matter concerning the public property of the Parish, or the application of the income of the Parish, about which the principals and officers should be made aware;
- must carry out duly considered instructions of the Parish Assembly or officers even if they disagree with their wisdom and
- may seek guidance of the Royal Court on the meaning or legality of any such instructions.

The Procureur du Bien Public must swear an oath of office in the Royal Court. The oath, set out below, is contained in the [Code of 1771](#) and is also shown [in translation](#)

SERMENT DES PROCUREURS DE PAROISSE

VOUS jurez et promettez par la foi et serment que vous devez à Dieu, que vous exercerez la charge de Procureur du bien public de la Paroisse de.....; que vous le conserverez et augmenterez comme le votre, et mieux s'il vous est possible; que vous vous réglerez par le bon conseil et avis des Principaux et Officiers, et des Chefs de Famille de ladite Paroisse; et ferez généralement tous autres devoirs qui dépendent de ladite charge.

OATH OF THE PARISH PROCUREURS

YOU swear and promise by the faith and oath that you owe to God, that you will discharge the office of Procureur du bien public of the Parish of; that you will conserve and augment the property of the Parish as you would your own, and more so if you are able; that you will in the execution of your duties take heed of the advice and counsel of the Principals and Officers, and Chefs de Famille of the said Parish; and that you will generally discharge all other duties appertaining to the said office.

In answer to the specific questions –

- (a) The parishes use a range of methods to promote nomination meeting dates. These include –
- Church box notice
 - Parish website
 - Parish Hall notice boards or notice box either within or outside the Parish Hall/Town Hall
 - Social media where available e.g. St Helier Facebook page and Twitter; Jersey Gazette online notices are also fed to Twitter
 - Screen at Charing Cross, St Helier – abbreviated version of St Helier nomination meeting notice
 - Notice in Jersey Evening Post (as a ‘public notice’; the Jersey Gazette is now online)
 - Email to those who have requested notification of parish meetings. Some parishes maintain a list for this purpose; in addition the Jersey Gazette is now online and islanders may request email notification of Parish notices
- (b) A person was proposed for election as Procureur du Bien Public at every nomination meeting; the results will be reported to the Royal Court, in accordance with the Court order for the elections, when those elected will take the oath of office (14 September 2018). Those elected or re-elected are as follows:

| Parish | Procureur du Bien Public elected or re-elected |
|--------------------|---|
| St Brelade | Arthur Morley re-elected |
| St Clement | Susan Pearmain re-elected |
| Grouville | John Lamy re-elected |
| St Helier | Peter Pearce re-elected |
| St John | Michel Larose re-elected |
| St Lawrence | Bruce Harrison re-elected |
| St Martin | Lester Richardson re-elected |
| St Mary | Daniel Reed re-elected |
| St Ouen | Royston Le Bas elected |
| St Peter | Christopher Benest elected |
| St Saviour | Charles Le Quesne elected |
| Trinity | Peter Williams re-elected |

- (c) The result of the nomination meetings were announced at the conclusion of each meeting. A Jersey Evening Post reporter telephoned one parish and was informed of the result. The St Helier result is also on the [Parish of St Helier website](#). Because of the timing of the issue of Parish magazines, the results will be included in future editions.
- (d) The Comité will be considering policy issues at forthcoming meetings, including publicity for parish elections generally, to improve public engagement.