

**DRAFT POLICE (HONORARY POLICE COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE) (JERSEY)
REGULATIONS 200- (P.159/2000): AMENDMENTS**

**Lodged au Greffe on 26th September 2000
by Deputy G.C.L. Baudains of St. Clement**



STATES OF JERSEY

STATES GREFFE

180

2000

P.169

Price code: A

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SCHEDULE, PAGE 33 -

(1) *Substitute for paragraph 11 the following paragraph -*

Alcohol

11.-(1) Officers shall not, when on duty or before coming on duty, consume alcohol to such an extent that, whilst they are on duty, their judgment or ability to perform their duties is likely to be adversely affected or is likely to bring the Honorary Police into disrepute.

(2) An Officer is on duty at all times during his duty rota except during such times as he has, with the prior agreement of, if he is a Vingtenier or Constable's officer, the duty Centenier or, if he is a Centenier, another Centenier of the Parish, been relieved of duty.

(2) *Substitute for paragraph 12 the following paragraph -*

Appearance

12. Unless on duties which dictate otherwise, officers should, when performing their duties, be well turned out, clean and tidy.

REPORT

Amendment 1

Whilst the notion that Police Officers should not consume alcohol whilst on duty may, at first glance, seem to have merit, I believe further examination of the idea shows this to be both unfair and unworkable.

Paragraph (2) allows a Police Officer to be on duty having consumed alcohol, provided he did it before he came on duty and that the amount consumed does not impair his judgement or ability.

I consider this entirely reasonable.

However, paragraph (1) states that “Officers shall not consume ANY alcohol whilst on duty...”.

This makes a nonsense of the second paragraph. If an Officer is deemed fit to carry out his duties having consumed, say, three measures of spirits, what is the difference between consuming it ten minutes before going on duty and consuming it the following day?

A States Police Officer is usually on duty for eight hours. It is probably not asking too much for abstinence from alcohol for such a period.

An Honorary Police Officer is on duty 24 hours a day for seven days, which is an entirely different matter.

Paragraph (1), as proposed, means that during the whole of that period he cannot have ANY alcohol. He cannot have a drink with his meal, cannot have a night-cap before bed, without being in breach of paragraph 11(1).

I believe such a ruling will either deter people from joining the force or cause them to be subject to disciplinary proceedings when they break the rule.

In my view it is asking too much for someone to forego a drink for seven consecutive days and nights, especially when paragraph (2) allows for an Officer to be on duty having consumed alcohol.

The first sentence of paragraph 11(1) could easily result in the demise of the Honorary Police.

Amendment 2

The wording of paragraph 12, as proposed, shows a lack of understanding of Honorary Police work. It fails to realise that, unlike their States Police counterparts, Honorary Officers do not work solely on Police matters during their duty period.

Paragraph 12 requires an Honorary Officer to be well turned out at all times during their duty week, regardless of whether or not they are actually engaged in Police activities.

Let us not forget that “on duty” means 24 hours a day for seven days at a time, regardless of whether he or she is actually doing Police work. What is an Officer expected to do if he or she is employed in a dirty job, e.g. fisherman, decorator or farmer? Are we seriously expecting these Officers to be well turned out whilst they are at work, because they also happen to be on duty as well?

My amendment seeks to differentiate between when an Officer is working on Police matters and when he is not, during the time he is on duty.

That way, a farmer, for example, cannot be reported by a vindictive person for being dirty and untidy if he is working on other matters, whilst technically on duty.

The reason for deleting the word “always” is to remove some of the emphasis on this issue, for the simple reason that an Officer could, albeit rarely, be called out to an urgent Police matter from another job.

I don't believe it would be in anyone's best interests to lay that Officer open to disciplinary proceedings simply because he considered the urgency outweighed the need to go home and tidy himself up.