

Media Release

Date: 13 April 2020

First 'virtual' Meeting of the States of Deliberation to be held

The States of Deliberation will hold its first official 'virtual' meeting tomorrow (Tuesday 14th April) at 2pm.

It follows a trial meeting held on Thursday 9th. The States Meeting will be held on MS Teams, which has already been widely used to facilitate Committee Meetings and other government business since the necessary 'lock down' restrictions were introduced as part of the Bailiwick's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The virtual meeting will see States Members, the Presiding Officer and other officials attend remotely. The public can also follow the proceedings through the public link:

<https://bit.ly/3eilcfQ>

Anyone who does not have access to the internet can also follow the debate on BBC Guernsey's MW frequency in the normal way.

In order to ensure the virtual meeting can be held as smoothly as possible, some small changes to the normal Rules of Procedure have been agreed. For example, amendments to the majority of propositions must be submitted at least 24 hours before the meeting.

States Greffier Simon Ross said:

'This is a first for Guernsey's government but after Thursday's trial run, we are confident it will be an effective way of holding the meetings remotely. Just like all other parts of the States of Guernsey we've had to adjust to solutions such as remote working. We've had to work hard, work together and work inventively to do it, and that includes everyone from the staff who organise and administrate the meeting, the States' digital partners who've provided us with solutions to allow remote working, and of course States Members themselves.'

The final agenda for the meeting will be confirmed on Tuesday. A draft agenda is available now at www.gov.gg/article/177102/States-Meeting-on-14th-April-2020-Billet-dtat-VII--Urgent-Propositions

Ends

Notes to Media

The public link for following the debate included in this release is for the Tuesday meeting only. If debate continues into Wednesday, a new link will be issued.