

STATES OF JERSEY



CHIEF OFFICER OF THE STATES OF JERSEY POLICE FORCE: RE-APPOINTMENT

Lodged au Greffe on 8th July 2015
by the Minister for Home Affairs

STATES GREFFE

PROPOSITION

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

in accordance with Article 9(1) of the Police Force (Jersey) Law 1974, to re-appoint Mr. Michael Bowron as the Chief Officer, States of Jersey Police, for a further period of 4 years from 4th January 2017.

MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS

REPORT

In accordance with the provisions of Article 9 of the States of Jersey Police Force Law 2012, the Minister for Home Affairs is seeking the approval of the States to an extension of the term of office of the Chief Officer of the States of Jersey Police, Mr. Michael Bowron.

Article 9 of the States of Jersey Police Force Law 2012 provides that the States may make Regulations prescribing the way in which a person may be appointed to the office of the Chief Officer and that the Regulations may prescribe who may make the appointments and determine the periods of the appointments and the way in which they may be extended. However, these Regulations are not yet in force so, in accordance with Article 2 of the States of Jersey Police Force (Transitional Provisions) (Jersey) Order 2014, Articles 9(1), (2), (4) and (5) of the Police Force (Jersey) Law 1974 are treated as if they remain in force until such time as the Regulations under Article 9 of the 2012 Law are in force. Article 9(1) of the 1974 Law provides that the Chief Officer of the States of Jersey Police shall be appointed by the States.

Mr. Bowron was recruited from the UK in 2010 and commenced his appointment on 4th January 2011, for a period of 6 years. Mr. Bowron's current contract expires on 4th January 2017. He has indicated that he would like to remain in post for a further period of 4 years from that date to January 2021 when he intends to take full retirement. An extension would ensure continuity and resilience within the States of Jersey Police senior ranks and is fully supported by the Minister.

Mr. Bowron has produced a succession plan which seeks to identify and support the development of individuals, who have the potential to fulfil the roles of Chief Officer and Deputy Chief Officer. If this extension is approved, Mr. Bowron will be able to ensure that his succession plan comes to fruition and that local people are appointed into Police Force leadership roles in the future.

Financial and manpower implications

There are no additional financial or manpower implications arising from this proposition.

The Minister recommends that the term of office for Mr. Bowron, Chief Officer of the States of Jersey Police, is extended for a 4 year period up to 4th January 2021.

Key achievements of Mr. Bowron since his appointment in 2011

The crime rate has fallen steadily and the level of trust and confidence in the States of Jersey Police held by the Public has grown.

Modernisation of the States of Jersey Police and changed attitudes and behaviours across the entire Force.

Restructure of all the ranks resulting in improved performance and a significant reduction in sickness absence. A restored sense of pride in the Force.

Initiation of the new Police Headquarters Project.

Introduction of the States of Jersey Police Force Law 2012.

Establishment of the Jersey Police Authority.

High Potential Development Success – Succession Plan.

Leadership programme.

Joined-up strategy and engagement with the Parishes and the Honorary Police.

Community policing model including the incorporation of town policing and licensing.

Fourth successive year of recorded low crime –

- serious crime 34% reduction
- street violence (night-time economy) 29% reduction
- 93% of people feel safe in their neighbourhood
- 81% of people think that the Police are doing a good job
- Jersey has amongst the highest detection rates in England and Wales.

Other achievements include –

States of Jersey lead for corporate risk;
States of Jersey lead for the implementation of FOI (delivered on time and within just over half of the budget).

National achievements –

Association of Chief Police Officers lead for business continuity;
UK Government Adviser for Police resilience;
Chairman of Financial Crime Information Network FIN-NET.