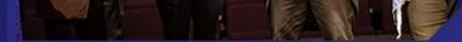


The logo consists of a white outline of a square with a clipped bottom-right corner. Inside this shape, the text "GUERNSEY ELECTION 2025" is written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font. "GUERNSEY" and "ELECTION" are in a smaller font size, while "2025" is significantly larger and bolder.

GUERNSEY
ELECTION
2025

Parliamentary Scrutiny

- Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC)
- The work of the SMC
- The composition of the SMC
- How Scrutiny works
- Traditional principles
- Why have Political Scrutiny



Parliamentary Scrutiny

- How is political Scrutiny conducted within Guernsey's unique system of government?
- Scrutinising government policy
- Financial Scrutiny
- The role of the Legislation Review Panel
- Committee Membership
- Support to members
- The challenge of impartiality



The work of the SMC



- Policy Letters
- Financial Information
- Legislation
- Matters of public concern
- Overview of all government activity



Financial Scrutiny

- Ongoing monitoring of performance
- Reviews of key processes
 - Budget
 - Accounts
- Analysis at Committee level
- Review major projects
- Investments
- Revenue
- Capital



Financial Scrutiny

- ◉ The SMC includes the functions of former Public Accounts Committee
- ◉ Financial Scrutiny expertise can be co-opted
- ◉ No Audit Commission or Auditor General in Guernsey
- ◉ Elected Members with financial expertise can be limited
- ◉ Not always an equality of arms
- ◉ “Whichever party is in office, the Treasury is in power” Harold Wilson



SMC Committee

- Three elected members plus two voting Non-States Members (NSM's)
- Other States Members can participate
- Additional NSM's can also participate
- Specialist additional resources – legal, financial & technical
- SMC Staff



How Scrutiny works

- Thematic Reviews
- Public Hearings (planned & urgent)
- Letters of Comment
- Tribunals of Enquiry
- Parliamentary Questions
- Statements in Parliament
- The media



Scrutiny is an opportunity for elected Members

- To participate in “Task & Finish” reviews
 - Members can join panels examining specific topics
 - Question politicians and senior staff in public hearings
 - A time limited commitment
 - Detailed examination of key issues
- Legislation Review Panel
 - Central to the role of Parliament
 - Policy intentions examined



Principles of “Good” Scrutiny

- Constructive ‘critical friend’ challenge
- Amplifies the voice and concerns of the public
- Led by independent-minded people
- Drives improvement in public services
- Holding power to account



Political Scrutiny

- "An extraordinary affair. I gave them their orders and they wanted to stay and discuss them." (After his first Cabinet meeting as Prime Minister:) Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington
 - Daniel Maclise's 'Waterloo' and Trafalgar in Parliament
- "What I want is men who will support me when I am in the wrong."
 - William Lamb, Viscount Melbourne, Prime Minister (1835)
- "I don't mind how much my Ministers talk, so long as they do what I say."
 - Margaret Thatcher Prime Minister



Political Scrutiny within Committee government

- No “opposition”
- No Party “in power”
- A consensus system with majority voting
- All elected members are part of the government
- Committee system



Wider Scrutiny Roles

- In Guernsey all elected members are part of the government
- Some members hold positions of authority – (Committee President)
- But all elected members have a scrutineering role!
- The public can contribute by participating on Scrutiny reviews and calls for evidence
- The public can contact SMC members to raise matters of concern



Why Scrutinise?

- Scrutiny ensures that:
 - Politicians, officers and the wider executive are held accountable for their decisions
 - Their decision-making process is clear and accessible to the public
 - There are opportunities for the public and their representatives to influence and improve public policy
- Democratic Government cannot work without effective scrutiny
- “Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely” Lord Acton – historian and politician

