



THE STATES OF DELIBERATION

GLOSSARY OF GUERNSEY PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

The following is a basic guide to some of the parliamentary terms used in the States of Deliberation. It is not an exhaustive list and contains some expressions used in other parliaments, but it covers the most common.

Evocation: Prayers, the announcement of the date in French and the reading of the roll call of Members in French.

Présent(e): The answer given by Members to the roll call to show they are in the Assembly.

Absent(e) de l'Isle: Answer given at the evocation by a Member on behalf of another member who is absent from Guernsey.

Indisposé(e): Answer given at the evocation by a Member on behalf of another member for a member who is ill.

Relevé(e): The expression used by a Member seeking to be added to the roll who has joined the Assembly after the evocation as in "May I be relevé(e) Sir/Madam". (It literally means to be relieved of the fine formerly imposed for non-attendance at the roll call).

Convocation: Reading of the convening notice in the Billet d'État by the Greffier

Billet d'État: The document containing the convening notice, legislation, propositions, policy letters and supplementary material for each States' Meeting.

Order Paper: The order of business for each meeting usually circulated by the States' Greffier on the Monday preceding an Ordinary sitting.

Requête: A petition to the States of Deliberation, signed by seven Members of the Assembly. The requests contained in the requête are called the "prayer". Members who sign a requête are known as a requérant (m) or requérante (f).

Sursis/Sursis Motivé: This in French means a delay or a stay and is a motion to do just that in respect of an item before the Assembly. A sursis which directs a course of action during the period of deferral is a sursis motivé.

Simultaneous Electronic Voting (SEV): The electronic voting system used by the Assembly to register their votes on Propositions. After the Presiding Officer has declared the result of a vote the full voting record is immediately published on statesvoting-records.gov.gg

Aux Voix /Appel Nominal/Division: Aux voix means to go to the vote. Appel nominal means a vote by roll call of Members. Division is a widespread parliamentary term for going to the vote on something.

Pour/Contre: This means for/against in French and are the terms used in the Assembly for voting.

Je ne vote pas: This is the term for used in the Assembly for abstaining in a vote.

Legislation

There are three main forms of legislation –

- Orders in Council (“Laws”)
- Ordinances
- Statutory Instruments

Order in Council: Primary legislation, passed by the States of Deliberation as a Projet de Loi (i.e. draft law) following which it is ratified on behalf of the King in the Bailiwick by H.E. The Lieutenant Governor.

Ordinance: An Ordinance is legislation made by the States which does not need to be submitted to the Privy Council. Ordinances cannot impose taxation or amend a Law or customary law.

Statutory Instruments: Legislation enacted by departments or committees pursuant to specific powers given in certain Laws.

Officers

Bailiff: The Island’s Chief Judge and who, ex officio, presides over the States of Deliberation as the Speaker. Appointed by Letters Patent.

Deputy Bailiff: As the Bailiff’s deputy she may discharge any of the functions of the office of Bailiff including that of Presiding Officer of the Sates of Deliberation. Appointed by Letters Patent

Procureur (H.M.): His Majesty’s Procureur is the Island’s Attorney-General and legal advisor to the States of Deliberation. Appointed by Royal Warrant.

Comptroller (HM): His Majesty’s Procureur is the Island’s Solicitor-General and legal advisor to the States of Deliberation. Appointed by Royal Warrant.

States’ Greffier: Parliamentary Clerk to the States of Deliberation; delegated role working under the terms of the 1948 Reform (Guernsey) Law.

HM Sheriff: Responsible for keeping order during sittings of the States of Deliberation.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Key Rules for a States' meeting

- *Rules 11 and 14 – questions written and oral*
- *Rule 17 rules of debate*
- *Rule 17(6) relevance,*
- *Rule 17(10) point of order,*
- *Rule 17(11) point of correction*
- *Rule 17(12) give way)*
- *Rule 24 Amendments*
- *Rule 26 Guillotine*
- *Rule 28 Requetes*
- *Rule 29 Declaration of Interest*
- *Code of Conduct*

Further Reading

CPA Benchmarks for Democratic Legislature.

[Commonwealth Parliamentary Association \(CPA\)](#)

The Government and Law of Guernsey

Darryl Ogier

An Island Assembly

Richard Hocart