

PAN-ISLAND  
COMMISSIONER  
FOR STANDARDS



Deputy Sarah Hansmann Rouxel  
President of the States' Assembly and Constitution Committee  
Royal Court House  
St Peter Port  
Guernsey GY1 2NZ

27 November 2025

Dear Deputy Hansmann Rouxel

It is with regret that I resign as Commissioner for Standards for Guernsey with immediate effect.

I have listened carefully to the debate over the past two days and have observed the media coverage during the many weeks leading up to it. There has been considerable commentary, including continued misrepresentation of key facts. This has been both concerning and disappointing due to the potential for the misleading public commentary and misinformation to have had an inappropriate and undue influence on Deputies.

For clarity, my investigation focused solely on the conduct of Deputy St Pier as complained about. The complaint concerned the confirmation of unsubstantiated and seriously misleading information to a journalist, information that was sensitive and harmful to the reputation of the complainant and actions which the complainant alleged was furtherance of a vendetta against her. The Appeal Commissioner's report which contains my full report are publicly available and contain the evidence, analysis, conclusions and recommendations.

The system as it is, chosen by States Members in 2023, includes that the Commissioner investigates complaints and provides independent recommendations related to whether there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct. Any appeals are heard by an independent Appeals Commissioner who provides a further layer of independence. Ultimately, it is then for Deputies to decide whether they accept the recommended sanctions of two independent commissioners. On this occasion, some Deputies were not prepared to do so. This is the prerogative of the Assembly who represent the electorate.

However, it is important to understand that when a Deputy is found to be in breach of the Code, as in this case, and where an Assembly decides not to suspend despite two independent Commissioners' recommendations, this can signal to the public that the Assembly is unwilling to enforce consequences and ensure accountability, that Deputies are prioritising political considerations over standards and that the independent process has limited real-world effect. A Commissioner cannot uphold standards in a system where standards are not seen to be upheld.

Equally, if after exhausting an independent appeals process and whilst awaiting the public debate on the sanction, a Deputy can campaign publicly and undermine the process and its

findings in the media, and face no consequences for undermining the system, it sends a message that others can do the same. This greatly damages the standards system.

In these circumstances, I cannot in good conscience continue to serve as Commissioner for Standards in Guernsey.

I would like to thank those who have supported the work of the Office of the Commissioner for Standards and who recognise the importance of maintaining a credible, fair, and independent standards regime.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa McCullough', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Dr Melissa McCullough**  
**Commissioner for Standards**