

## Open Agenda

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### Memorandum for Executive Council

**SUBJECT**

**National Honours and Awards Bill, 2021**

Memorandum by the Chief Secretary

**ADVICE SOUGHT**

**1. Executive Council is asked to consider and advise whether the attached draft National Honours and Awards Bill for an Ordinance (Annex A) should be printed, published and presented as Government business at the next formal meeting of the Legislative Council.**

**BACKGROUND & CONSIDERATIONS**

2. It was agreed at the Executive Council meeting held on 30 March 2021, that the following criteria for the proposed *Badge of St Helena* and the *Freedom of the City of Jamestown* award be approved and incorporated in legislation:

2.1 Badge of St Helena –

*(a) The Badge of St Helena shall be awarded by the Governor, in consultation with the Honours Committee, to individuals who make significant contribution to St Helena by supporting and/or enhancing social, cultural, economic, environmental improvement or the understanding of St Helena internationally. A contribution considered for an award should be of direct relevance to St Helena and could be either a significant single action or a notable involvement up to the present time over an extended period. A contribution under consideration for an award may also contribute towards achieving one or more of the Island's national goals or strategic objectives.*

*(b) Contributions can include but are not limited to the following:*

*i. Innovation;*

*ii. Ventures leading to a novel or original improvements to St Helena;*

*iii. Charitable giving;*

*iv. Community engagement and acts of kindness/compassion that enhance inclusivity and generally improve the quality of life; and*

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- v. *Actions that promote culture, arts, literature, music etc. and positively raise awareness about St Helena as a place to visit, live, work, do business and raise children.*
- (c) *Recipients of the Badge of St Helena need not be resident on St Helena and can be of any nationality.*
- (d) *The St Helena Badge will not be awarded posthumously.*

### 2.2 Freedom of the City of Jamestown

- (a) *The Freedom of the City of Jamestown shall be made by the Governor, in consultation with the Honours Committee and Executive Council, to individuals who are either St Helenian or non-St Helenian who are significantly admirable and worthy of distinction. Such designation shall be in the best interests of St Helena and the betterment of its people.*
- (b) *The awardee may be of any nationality and could either be:*
  - i. *resident on St Helena; or*
  - ii. *an international visitor of importance.*
- (c) *The award is symbolic and does not grant any changes to citizenship or nationality, nor does it bestow any rights, privileges or duties.*
- (d) *The designation would be established by the award of a Certificate.*
- (e) *The Freedom of the City of Jamestown ends on the death of the honoured and could be annulled by the Governor following criminal conviction or behaviour not conducive to the reputation or international standing of St Helena.*

3. Notwithstanding, 2.2 (b) above, it is felt that the *Freedom of the City of Jamestown* award should not be restricted to residents and visitors to the Island but that it should also be available to recognise individuals who make a significant contribution to the Island, either in cash or kind, regardless of whether they are a visitor to the Island, residing on the island or living abroad.

4. All of the above is encapsulated in the attached Bill for an Ordinance, which also provides for the appointment of a National Honours and Awards Committee.

5. In addition, the Bill makes provision for nominations and the conferment of honours and awards as well as offences relevant to the unauthorised use of the insignia and any abuse in connection with the grant of an honour or award. It also provides for the revocation of an honour or award.

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6. There is also provision for all expenditure that is incurred for the conferment of honours and awards, to be paid from the Consolidated Fund; and, for regulations to be made by the Governor in Council that could prescribe:

- (a) the insignia and regalia of the Badge of St Helena;
- (b) the eligibility of conferment of an honour or award;
- (c) the investitures in relation to an honour or award;
- (d) the rights or privileges appurtenant to the conferment of an honour or award.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. As indicated in the ExCo Memo 20/21 of 21 March 2021, the FCDO/Governor's Office is sponsoring costs incurred for the design competition for the Badge of St Helena and has made available the sum of £250 for prize money and cost of advertising.

8. ExCo Memo 20/21 also noted that the Royal Mint's standard tooling costs amount to £1,000 ie £500 per side and that it is anticipated that the unit cost for the Badge of St Helena will be in the same region as that for the Badge of Honour ie £145 plus VAT (NB price charged in 2020).

9. The Bill proposes that all costs associated with the *Badge of St Helena* and the *Freedom of the City of Jamestown* be charged to the Consolidated Fund.

### ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no economic implications. These awards will recognise exceptional service and contribution to St Helena and its people, including economic improvements.

### CONSISTENCY WITH INVESTMENT POLICY PRINCIPLES

11. N/A

### PUBLIC/SOCIAL IMPACT

12. As noted previously, there could be some public sensitivity about a non-St Helenian being awarded a Badge of St Helena. Similarly, a Freedom of the City of Jamestown award could give rise to different interpretations even though it will be available for both St Helenians and non-St Helenians.

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<b>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT</b>	13. There is no environmental impact.
<b>PREVIOUS CONSULTATION/ COMMITTEE INPUT</b>	14. Executive Council first discussed this matter on 3 November 2020 and, as noted in paragraph 2 above, approved the criteria for the Badge of St Helena and the Freedom of the City of Jamestown award at a meeting held on 30 March 2021  15. The matter has also been discussed with all Elected Members.
<b>PUBLIC REACTION</b>	16. Public reaction is likely to be mixed. There will be some in favour of such awards that are regulated via the Honours Committee, whilst there may be others with contrary opinions.
<b>PUBLICITY</b>	17. Executive Council's decision should be covered in the media briefing following the meeting and if approved, the Bill will be published. Separate publicity should follow if the Bill becomes an Ordinance.
<b>SUPPORT TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	18. N/A
<b>LINK TO SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN GOALS</b>	19. N/A
<b>IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY/ LEGISLATION</b>	20. Implementation of, and compliance with, the proposed legislation will rest with the Central Support Service.
<b>OPEN/CLOSED AGENDA ITEM</b> Central Support Service <i>20<sup>th</sup> April 2021</i>	21. Recommended for the open agenda.

**SO'B**

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