

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 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. On 27th April 2021 Executive Council advised that an earlier version of this Bill should be presented to Legislative Council. That Bill was presented to Legislative Council on 30th May. The Bill was defeated before it got to the Committee Stage.
3. Discussions have taken place since then and Elected Members (EMs) have expressed their views that both awards, not just the Freedom of the City Award, should be open to everyone and not limited by place of birth or residence.
4. Changes have been made to the Bill so that the Badge of St Helena is now open to all.
5. The Badge of St Helena had been seen as a logical alternative for those who did not meet the eligibility criteria for the Badge of Honour created under the 1957 Statutory Rules. However, the views of Members are reflected in moving away from this to an award open to all.
6. Consequential amendments have also been made to the Bill arising from this change. Some other minor amendments have been made to the Bill following matters raised by EMs.
7. As the Bill was defeated before the Committee Stage the Standing Orders of Legislative Council prevent it being considered again until six months have passed, unless that provision is suspended by Legislative Council. An application to suspend will need to be made on the day the Bill is next considered by Legislative Council.

Open Agenda

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. Nothing additional from Memo 22/2021 that was discussed on 27th April 2021.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

9. Nothing additional from Memo 22/2021 discussed on 27th April 2021.

CONSISTENCY WITH INVESTMENT POLICY PRINCIPLES

10. N/A

PUBLIC/SOCIAL IMPACT

11. Nothing additional from Memo 22/2021 discussed on 27th April 2021.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

12. There is no environmental impact.

PREVIOUS CONSULTATION/ COMMITTEE INPUT

13. An earlier Bill was approved by ExCo on 27th April.

14. The Bill has now been discussed with Elected Members on a number of occasions.

PUBLIC REACTION

15. 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.

PUBLICITY

16. 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.

SUPPORT TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

17. N/A

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**LINK TO
SUSTAINABLE
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
PLAN GOALS**

18. N/A

**IMPLEMENTATION
OF POLICY/
LEGISLATION**

19. Implementation of, and compliance with, the proposed legislation will rest with the Central Support Service.

**OPEN/CLOSED
AGENDA ITEM**

20. Recommended for the open agenda.

SO'B

Central Support
Service

17th June 2021

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