

OPEN AGENDA

Copy No:

No: 50/2021

Memorandum for Executive Council

SUBJECT

National Honours and Awards Regulations, 2021

Memorandum by the Chief Secretary

ADVICE SOUGHT

1. Executive Council is asked to consider and advise whether the attached National Honours and Awards Regulations 2021, (Annex A) should be approved and brought into force on the date of publication.

BACKGROUND & CONSIDERATIONS

2. The National Honours and Awards Bill for an Ordinance was presented as Government business at the formal meeting of the Legislative Council held on 19 July 2021 and passed the House with minor amendment.

3. Section 16 of the Ordinance make provision for regulations to be made by the Governor in Council as may be considered necessary or convenient. Such regulations may prescribe –

(a) the insignia or 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

4. During debate in the House on 19 July 2021, it was agreed that the eligibility of conferment of an honour or award should not necessarily preclude persons who have spent convictions for minor offences and that the regulations should make provision for the same. In this regard the attached regulations include the following provision:

“Eligibility for award not affected by spent convictions

A person who has been convicted of an offence is not disqualified from being eligible under these Regulations for an award if, in accordance with the principles contained in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, as applied to St Helena by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (Application) Order, 2019, that person would be treated as a rehabilitated person in respect of that conviction and that conviction treated as spent.

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	5. There are no additional financial implications than those set out in Ex Co Memo 22/2021 that was discussed in the Ex Co meeting held on 27 April 2021.
ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS	6. There are no economic implications. As stated in Ex Co Memo 22/2021, these awards will recognise exceptional service and contribution to St Helena and its people, including economic improvements.
CONSISTENCY WITH INVESTMENT POLICY PRINCIPLES	7. N/A
PUBLIC/SOCIAL IMPACT	8. The Ordinance and Regulations should be well received by the public, particularly since the Badge of St Helena and the Freedom of the City Award can be made to anyone regardless of their place of birth or place of residence.
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	9. There is no environmental impact.
PREVIOUS CONSULTATION/ COMMITTEE INPUT	10. As mentioned in paragraphs 2 – 6 above, the Bill for an Ordinance was discussed in Executive Council before being passed in the House on 19 July, when it was agreed that the regulations would provide the necessary detail to underpin the Ordinance.
PUBLIC REACTION	11. 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	12. Executive Council’s decision should be covered in the media briefing following the meeting and if approved, the Regulations will be published. Separate publicity on both the Ordinance and Regulations should follow to coincide with the publication of the legislation.
SUPPORT TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	13. N/A
LINK TO SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN GOALS	14. N/A

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IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY/ LEGISLATION 15. Implementation of, and compliance with, the proposed legislation will rest with the Central Support Service in liaison with the Governor's Office.

SO'B

OPEN/CLOSED AGENDA ITEM 16. Recommended for the open agenda.

Corporate Support
Service

29th July 2021

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