



# GOVERNANCE REFORM

The Governance Reform Implementation Group continues to progress the separate strands of work to take forward the constitutional changes needed for our new Ministerial system of government.

**Update 3 July 21**

This is the third update.

## **STRAND 3 – REDRAFTING OF LEGCO STANDING ORDERS ETC**

Redrafted Legislative Council Standing Orders and Code of Conduct were discussed with Elected Members and have been passed to the Attorney General's Chambers to be finalised for formal approval by Legislative Council. Both documents will be laid on the table as Sessional Papers at the formal sitting of Legislative Council during the last week of July.

A Motion will be put forward seeking the approval of the House. These changes to the Standing Orders and Code of Conduct will only come into effect at the time of a Ministerial government.

Separately, the Governor's Office has circulated to Elected Members a draft Ministerial Code for their views. The Code represents the ways future Ministers should conduct their duties and work within the Executive Council.

After comments are received, the Ministerial Code will be prepared for formal approval at the first sitting of Legislative Council under a Ministerial system.

## **STRAND 1 - PROGRESSING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT**

The draft Order amending the Constitution has been forwarded to the Privy Council for consideration on 21 July. The draft Order, signed off by the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Foreign & Commonwealth Development Office Minister, included a minor change agreed with the Attorney General's Chambers. The word 'standing' before the term 'Select Committee' in a clause was removed as not being necessary to describe a Select Committee.

The draft Order amending the Constitution can be viewed on the SHG website here: <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/23-St-Helena-Ascension-Tristan-da-cunha-Constitution-amendment-order-2021.pdf>

## **STRAND 2 - INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION BODY**

The independent Remuneration Body reported to the Governor on future remuneration and allowances for Elected Members and the Governor held a further meeting with them last week to clarify some points.

Legislation\* will be put to Executive Council as soon as possible and thereafter to Legislative Council to finalise the remuneration arrangements under a Ministerial governance system.

\*A replacement schedule to the existing Legislative Council (Remuneration and Allowances) Ordinance 2010, as amended in 2018.

## **STRAND 4 - ELECTIONS MONITORING AND TRAINING**

There has been no further progress on Elections Monitoring at this stage.

A virtual training programme for Ministers, Elected Members and SHG Portfolio Directors has been identified. The Administration is working with the Civil Service College in the UK to hold the training after the General Election.

## **STRAND 5 – ROOM FOR ACCOMMODATION**

As per the last update, accommodation for the Chief Minister, Ministers, other Elected Members and support staff has been identified in the respective Portfolios and at the Castle.

## **STRAND 6 – OATH OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

For future Ministers, where there will be a collective responsibility to the Chief Minister, the wording and sanctions in the Ministerial Code should be sufficient to ensure Ministers exercise confidentiality when dealing with sensitive information.

It is not regarded by the Implementation Group at the present time as necessary to introduce more prescriptive confidentiality legislation. There would be no confidentiality requirement placed on Elected Members who did not hold a ministerial office, unless there was an occasional need on a case-by-case basis.

## **STRAND 7 – DELINEATING SEVEN NEW POST-ELECTION REPRESENTATIONAL DISTRICTS**

The Statistical Commissioner presented options to Legislative Council for the new Post-Election Representational Districts. The preference was for the current eight electoral districts to be distributed between the seven Legislators under the Ministerial system who do not hold a ministerial office. Six Legislators would each be allocated an existing electoral district to represent. The seventh Legislator would represent two of the electoral districts, perhaps the two least populated ones.