

GOVERNANCE COMMISSION – TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Background & Purpose

Following the introduction of the ministerial form of government in 2021, Legislative Council commissioned an independent review to evaluate the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of governance structures. The St Helena Governance Review Report was laid in the House on 26 June 2025.

Before Legislative Council considers the recommendations, it is desirable to canvass the views of the community. The purpose of such consultation is to establish the resonance of the various recommendations with the St Helenian community. It would also be helpful to consider the feasibility of implementation and to propose the priority with which recommendations should be taken forward. Achieving this goal will be allocated to a local Governance Commission.

It should be noted that any recommendation that requires amendment to the Constitution will not be in the gift of Legislative Council to agree alone, but will instead be the subject of negotiation between SHG and the UKG.

2. Objectives

The Commission will:

- Review and assess each recommendation from the Governance Review.
- Consult key stakeholders involved in or affected by the review.
- Evaluate recommendations in light of local legislation and context, the Constitution and the UK relationship.
- Categorize recommendations as:
 - To be implemented in full
 - To be implemented in part/modified
 - Not to be taken forward (with rationale)
- Prioritize recommendations and identify risks, opportunities, and barriers to implementation considering carefully the feasibility, applicability and resource implications of each.

3. Membership

The Commission will comprise **five diverse members** with:

- A range of perspectives, local knowledge, and relevant expertise.
- At least one public servant, one former elected member and one independent member with no direct government or political experience.

4. Methodology & Approach

The Commission will:

- Develop a stakeholder engagement plan.
- Conduct legal, contextual, and constitutional analysis.
- Use consensus-based decision-making, noting differing views where relevant.

5. Governance & Support

- The Deputy Chief Secretary (Head of Central Support Services) will oversee appointments and administration.
- The Commission will operate independently, with access to legal advice, documents, and logistical support.
- Administrative tasks will largely be self-managed to preserve independence.

6. Deliverables

By end of November 2025, the Commission will submit:

- A draft proposal categorizing each recommendation with rationale.
- A summary of stakeholder consultations.
- A draft implementation roadmap.

Within two weeks of Legislative Council feedback, the Commission will submit:

- A final report

7. Remuneration

Meetings are expected to be of a duration of at least three hours for which each member will be paid £35 per meeting. Members will be entitled to claim for transport costs/mileage at the rate of 77p per mile. Public Servants will not be eligible for the meeting attendance allowance if meetings are held during normal working hours.

8. Complaints/Resignation

Complaints against the Commission should be submitted in writing to the Governor.

Members of the Committee should give at least two weeks' notice in writing of their intention to resign with reasons for their resignation.