

**For Immediate Use****COMPLAINT LODGED BY DEPUTY DAWN TINDALL****AGAINST****DEPUTY NEIL INDER****MEDIA STATEMENT**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 Deputy Dawn Tindall lodged a complaint under the Code of Conduct for Members of the States of Deliberation asserting that Deputy Neil Inder had breached section 9 of the Code by what he said in an interview concerning tourism in Guernsey which he gave to BBC Guernsey and which was broadcast on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Deputy Tindall complained about what he said about Visit Guernsey and in particular she complained that he had referred to her as someone with a “tissue thin ego” and “an empty chair”. Her complaint also referred to his description of civil servants generally but in particular those at Visit Guernsey.

Having determined that there was prima facie evidence to support the complaint, the Chairman established an Investigation Panel to consider the matter in detail. The Panel met on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

That Panel considered the matter carefully and met the complainant and also Deputy Inder. After considering all the evidence provided to it, both written and verbal, the Panel decided that the complaint should be treated in two parts.

In respect of Deputy Tindall's assertions that Deputy Inder had aimed his comments at her, the Panel found that Deputy Inder's comments were misconstrued by Deputy Tindall and were not directed at her. Therefore, we find in that respect that Deputy Inder had not breached the Code of Conduct for States' Members.

However, all States' Members must remember at all times that civil servants are employees of the States who should be treated with respect and courtesy. Members who wish to criticise them should adhere to the correct practices and procedures. In the interview broadcast on BBC Guernsey on the 20<sup>th</sup> February Deputy Inder did not afford the civil servants concerned that respect and courtesy because he publicly criticised them in the media in circumstances in which they were unable to respond. As a Member of the States, Deputy Inder is subject to the Code of Conduct which clearly states that he owes a duty to

civil servants. In that regard, we find that he breached section 9 of the Code of Conduct for States Members.

The Investigation Panel was of the view that the breach of conduct was of a minor nature. It has therefore cautioned Deputy Inder.

He has accepted that caution and the matter is therefore now closed.

On application to H.M. Greffier, a copy of the Panel's report is available for public inspection whenever the Greffe is open for normal business.

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