

Drafting Instructions: Act to observe the Royal Visit

Introduction

Following the announcement made by the Bailiff during the sitting of the States Assembly (“the Assembly”) on Tuesday, 11 June 2024, the Chief Minister requested that the Assembly be given the opportunity to decide at their meeting on 25 June 2024 (“the next scheduled sitting”) whether the Royal Visit scheduled for Monday 15 July 2024 should be observed as a public holiday.

Detail

Article 2 of the Public Holidays and Bank Holidays (Jersey) Law 1951 ([link](#)) (“the Law”) states that the Assembly may by Act appoint days which are to be observed as public holidays. Previously, the States have by Act appointed public holidays for specific years - most recently in 2023 (P.1/2023 refers ([link](#))) - and this resulted in an update to the Public Holidays and Bank Holidays (Jersey) Act 2010 ([link](#)). A similar Act will be prepared to enable the Royal Visit to be observed as a public holiday.

Timing Constraints

Under Standing Orders of the States of Jersey (“Standing Orders”), an Act has a minimum lodging period of 4 weeks. To have lodged in time for the next scheduled sitting, the draft Act would need to have been lodged on 28 May 2024. Therefore, if the Act is to be debated at the next scheduled sitting and before the Royal Visit, the Chief Minister will need to seek leave of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 26(7) at the start of public business at that sitting. It would not be possible to allow for the minimum lodging period as this would mean a debate after the Royal Visit.

Resource Implications

The Chief Economic Advisor has estimated that the Island’s GDP would be negatively impacted by between £3m and £6m for each additional public holiday added to the calendar.

That said, a public holiday for the Royal Visit will likely be of benefit to certain sectors of the economy, specifically the hospitality industry, and the overall economic impact is highly uncertain, for example, it depends on the behaviour of international businesses whose operations elsewhere will remain open.

Islanders would also be provided with an extended three-day weekend, and the proposed public holiday would coincide with the final of the UEFA European Football Championship (Sunday, 14 July 2024). This may leverage the economic upside for the hospitality industry.

Recommendation

The Chief Minister is recommended to approve the [appended drafting instructions](#) be presented to the Legislative Drafting Office so as to allow them to prepare an Act for lodging and debate by the Assembly.

Appendix: Drafting Instructions

Introduction

Prepare an Act for the Assembly to make, pursuant to Article 2 of the Law, Monday 15 July 2024 as an extraordinary public holiday following the announcement of the Royal Visit.

Detail

In Part 2 of the Schedule of the Public Holidays and Bank Holidays (Jersey) Act 2010 ([link](#)), after the rule for 2023, insert:

“2024: Royal Visit of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla

Monday 15 July 2024 is to be observed as a public holiday.”

In accordance with the naming convention of the last Act made under the same Law (P.1/2023 refers ([link](#))), it is suggested that the new Act be cited as:

“Draft Public Holidays and Bank Holidays (Amendment – Royal Visit) (Jersey) Act 202-“

Based on precedent, the Act could come into force 7 days after it is made, which, depending on Assembly business, is likely to be between 3-5 July.