

PRESS RELEASE

APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION OBSERVER TO THE SARK GENERAL ELECTION

Wednesday December 12th 2012

Sir Norman Browse, former President of Alderney, has been invited to observe the forthcoming General Election in Sark. Sir Norman will be reviewing all aspects of the Election to ensure they comply with international best practice. This will include reviewing if:

- The electorate was provided with adequate, accurate information upon which to make an informed political choice;
- Those seeking election were subjected to fair qualification processes;
- Electoral contestants had a genuine opportunity to organize and campaign for votes;
- The voter registration process guaranteed electoral rights;
- The voting, counting, tabulation and announcement of results were conducted properly;
- The investigation and resolution of complaints was just; and
- The actual electoral winners assumed office.

Following the completion of the Election proceedings, he will compile a report which will be made available to the Chief Pleas.

Election observers are becoming increasingly commonplace in democratic elections around the world. Speaking on behalf of the Ministry of Justice and as Privy Counsellor with responsibility for representing the interests of the Crown Dependencies, the Right Honourable Lord McNally, commented,

"In order to promote transparency and fairness and consolidate the democratic standards Sark has embraced, I am pleased that Sir Norman Browse has agreed to observe the forthcoming elections. Elections are a key part of any democracy and I hope the people of Sark will take this opportunity to ensure their voices are heard."

Responding in his capacity as Returning Officer, Lt Col Reg Guille, MBE, said, *"I am pleased to welcome Sir Norman to Sark where he will be afforded every assistance in ensuring he is able to fully discharge his role as Election Observer and I look forward to receiving his report in due course, which I have no doubt will confirm the status of elections on Sark as being of the highest standards of openness and transparency."*

ENDS

For additional information, contact:

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NOTE to EDITORS:-

SIR NORMAN BROWSE MD, FRCS, FRCP, FRC

Sir Norman is a former Professor of Surgery and Consultant Surgeon at St Thomas Hospital, London and became President of the Royal College of Surgeons.

He is the author or co-author of a number of leading books on surgical techniques, including "*Browse's Introduction to the Symptoms and Signs of Surgical Disease*" and "*Browse's Introduction to the Investigation and Management of Surgical Disease.*"

Sir Norman served as President of the States of Alderney from 2002 until he stood down in 2011 and is recognised as being one of the Channel Islands' most respected citizens.