

Non-States Member roles

bringing your expertise to a States committee

What does a States committee do?

States committees

The day to day work of the States of Guernsey is divided among a senior committee (Policy and Resources), six principal committees and seven additional committees. Each committee is independently responsible to the States of Deliberation.

The Committee for Health and Social Care, for example, is responsible for diagnosis and treatment of health conditions, adult social care, welfare and protection of children and families, mental health, environmental health, health promotion and care of the elderly.

[Responsibilities of States committees](#)

Principal committees

The six principal committees are made up of five Deputies and up to two people who are not States members. **These additional members do not have a vote.**

The six committees are:

- Health and Social Care
- Home Affairs
- Education,
- Culture and Sport
- Environment and Infrastructure
- Employment and Social Security

- Economic Development

Although all of these committees can have non-voting members, not all choose to do so. The committee is free to decide whether or not it wants any external expertise at the board table.

Two further committees work to the same system:

- Development and Planning Authority
- Transport Licensing Authority

Other States committees

Two States committees are different. They are required to have two members who are not Deputies as part of their terms of reference and **these members have a vote**.

- States Trading Supervisory Board
- Scrutiny Management Committee

What do non-States members do?

Committee members who are not Deputies

Voting and non-voting members of States committees are experienced members of the public who contribute to the work of a States committee but have not been elected as a Deputy.

The role is similar to a non-executive director on a company board in bringing expertise and an external perspective to a committee. These additional members receive the committee papers and attend and contribute to meetings. They cannot vote on decisions – with the exception of those on the States Trading Supervisory Board and the Scrutiny Management Committee.

Scrutiny Management Committee

The Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) scrutinises the work of the other States committees (and organisations that receive public funds) by reviewing legislation, policies, services and use of resources.

The Scrutiny Management Committee has two voting members who are elected and can vote.

Task and Finish Panels

In addition, the Scrutiny Management Committee recruits members of the public with relevant expertise to sit on 'Task and Finish' Panels. These panels are set up to examine specific topics such as investment, access to public information, in-work poverty and capital allocation.

How do you get appointed?

Recruitment process for principal committees

On a principal committee, non-voting members are appointed by the President and the members of the relevant committee at the beginning of the States four-year term. The recruitment process is determined by the committee – [sometimes the role is advertised](#), sometimes the committee approaches suitable candidates.

Once the committee has made its choice, it submits the name(s) to the States of Deliberation for information.

If you wish to be considered as a non-voting member you need to be ready when committees are being formed at the beginning of a new States term. You need to work out who is likely to become the President of the committee that you are interested in and make a personal approach to them.

You can resign at any time. The committee is under no obligation to replace you. You will stand down at the end of the four year States term alongside the rest of your committee.

Process for Scrutiny Management Committee and States Trading Supervisory Board

At the beginning of a new States term ([or shortly after, for continuity](#)), the roles of voting member on the Scrutiny Management Committee and the States Trading Supervisory Board are advertised. You will be asked for your CV and a covering letter. Applications will be shortlisted and if you are successful, you will be invited for an interview. If you are selected, your name will be included in a Billet and you will be proposed for election in the States of Deliberation. Deputies may propose additional candidates from the floor so your appointment is not guaranteed – you may need to win a vote.

You will stand down at the end of the four year States term alongside the rest of your committee.

Rules for voting and non-voting members

You will have to make the same declaration of interests and declaration of unspent convictions that a Deputy would and these will be published on the States website.

You cannot be considered if you are employed by the States of Guernsey at the time.

Process for Scrutiny Management's 'Task and Finish' Panels

At the beginning of a new States term, Scrutiny advertises for expressions of interest from members of the public who would like be considered for a Task and Finish panel. You will be asked to submit a CV and a covering letter, indicating your area of expertise. Scrutiny then draws on this pool of potential candidates when forming Task and Finish panels focused on specific areas. The subjects of these panels range from access to public information to capital allocation to in-work poverty.

If you would like to be considered for a Task and Finish Panel, contact scrutiny@gov.gg.

What skills do you need?

Skills

Principal committees

You will need to have affinity with, and experience of, the area of work of that particular committee. For example, to be a non-voting member of the Committee for Employment and Social Security you might have experience of pensions management or supporting people on lower incomes.

You will also need experience of working on a committee or a board.

Scrutiny Management Committee

The main purpose of having non-voting members on the Scrutiny Management Committee is to bring additional legal, financial or business skills.

You will need to be good at building relationships because you will be working across all States committees.

You will have to read and digest large quantities of complex information and be able to summarise it for others. You will also need to use what you have learnt to question or challenge States members and officers. An ability to see what's missing, as well as critique what's presented, is essential.

Once the information has been digested and queried, you will also be expected to contribute to the recommendations.

Scrutiny Management's 'Task and Finish' Panels

You will need to have experience of, and expertise in, the topic being reviewed.

You will have to read and digest large quantities of complex information.

States Trading and Supervisory Board (STSB)

To be a voting member on STSB you will need experience of corporate governance, board and shareholder responsibilities, and strategic and operational benchmarking.

What's the time commitment?

Time commitment

Principal committees and the States Trading Supervisory Board

These committees meet every two weeks on average, or more often if they are preparing an extensive policy paper for debate in the States. Meetings are on a specific weekday at the offices of the committee and can last two to four hours.

You will be expected to read the papers beforehand, ask questions of officers and contribute to discussion in meetings.

In addition, you will be copied in on emails between the members of the committee plus other correspondence.

You may be asked to join a sub-committee, in which case there will be a further set of papers to read and meetings to attend.

In total, the commitment is at least ten hours a month.

Scrutiny Management Committee

The Scrutiny Management Committee meets every three weeks (in advance of the States meetings) for 2.5 hours on a weekday at Raymond Falla House.

As a voting member you will also take part in the monthly Legislation Review Panel and Financial Scrutiny Panel and sit on some Task and Finish panels.

You will need to read extensively and attend numerous meetings when the committee is preparing to issue a letter of comment or to hold a hearing. The documents are long and complex.

You will not write letters of comment – that will be done by the officers – but you will be asked to review and contribute to them.

In total, your role will take up a day a week on average. The workload tends to intensify as the States term progresses.

Scrutiny Management's 'Task and Finish' Panels

If you are asked to form part of a 'Task and Finish' Review Panel to examine a particular issue, you will need to read extensively and attend numerous meetings for a period of several months. In total, your role will take up about half a day a week for the period you are involved.

What support or training is there?

Support

As a voting or non-voting committee member, you will be supported by the officers who support your committee as a whole. They will give you the schedule of meetings, prepare the papers for you to read before meetings and are available to answer any questions.

You will also be supported by the President of the committee and the other members.

Training

Voting and non-voting members are not included in the induction programme for Deputies.

The Scrutiny Management Committee organises some ad-hoc training sessions and includes its voting members in opportunities to visit the Houses of Parliament and attend conferences.

Rewards and downsides

Rewards

You will be using your experience and expertise to help ensure the smooth running and value for money of the services on which Guernsey depends.

You will get an in-depth insight into the workings of the States.

Downsides

The workload is considerable and can be high-pressured when large or controversial policies are going through the States or you are involved in a large Scrutiny Review.

Do you get paid?

Non-States Members

Voting and non-voting members are paid £2,085 per year (2018/9 figures) which increases in May each year by any upward percentage change in median earnings in Guernsey. This figure reflects the fact that the role is considered to be largely voluntary.

The exceptions are voting members on the States Trading Supervisory Board who are paid £8,340 (2018/9 figures).

Scrutiny Management 'Task and Finish' panels

You will be paid £70 per session (2019 figure). A morning's hearing would count as a session.

Where can I find out more?

More information

Principal committees

Detailed information about the role of a non-voting member on a principal committee is scarce. The only source seems to be the work of the [States Review Committee](#) in 2015 but this simply confirms that each committee can appoint two non-voting members.

Non-voting members are covered by Rule 46 of the [Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees](#) ('Red Book').

[Mandates of States committees.](#)

Scrutiny Management committee

Go to www.gov.gg/scrutiny for general information about the Scrutiny Management Committee including an archive of previous reviews, letters of comment and annual reports.

The [In-Work Poverty Review](#) is a typical example of the involvement of Non-States Members in Scrutiny Reviews.

Download this information

To download all of this information about Non-States Member roles as a PDF, click the PDF symbol on the right of this page.

Corrections

This description of Non-States Member roles has been researched by Women in Public Life volunteers. If you spot an error, please do let us know by emailing hello@womeninpubliclife.gg.

Questions?

If you have a question about being a voting or non-voting member of a States committee that isn't answered on this page, email us at hello@womeninpubliclife.gg. We'll research the answer and then publish it here to help inform others who might be curious about the same thing.