STATES OF JERSEY

JERSEY DATA PROTECTION AUTHORITY: RE-APPOINTMENT OF VOTING MEMBER

Presented to the States on 23rd November 2026
by the Minister for Economic Development

STATES GREFFE

REPORT

Background

The Minister for Sustainable Economic Development is presenting this Report to the States Assembly in line with the *Data Protection Authority (Jersey) Law 2018* (the "2018 Law") to give notice of his intention to reappoint Mr Paul Routier MBE as a Voting Member of the Jersey Data Protection Authority.

The Data Protection Authority is established under Article 3 of the 2018 Law, which states –

"3 Constitution of Authority

(1) The Authority consists of –

(a) the Chairman;

(b) no fewer than 3 and no more than 8 other voting members; and

(c) the Commissioner as an ex officio and non-voting member.

(2) Subject to paragraph (4), the Chairman and the other voting members are appointed by the Minister who must have particular regard to the need to ensure that voting members of the Authority –

(a) have the qualifications, experience and skills necessary to exercise and perform the functions of a member, in particular relating to the protection of personal data;

(b) have a strong sense of integrity; and

(c) are able to maintain confidentiality.

(3) Before appointing any individual under this Article, the Minister may require the individual to provide, or to authorize the Minister to obtain, any information and references that the Minister reasonably requires to ascertain the individual's suitability for appointment as a voting member.

(4) At least 2 weeks before making an appointment under this Article the Minister must present to the States a notice of the Minister's intention to make the appointment.

(5) Each voting member is appointed for a term of 5 years or such shorter period as the Minister thinks fit in a particular case and is eligible for reappointment up to a maximum period of service of 9 years.

(6) An individual is ineligible to be a voting member if the individual –

(a) is, or has at any time during the preceding 12 months been, a member of the States of Jersey;

(b) is a States' employee or is otherwise under the direction and control of the States; or

(c) is engaged in any employment, occupation (whether or not remunerated) or business, or receives any benefits, that is incompatible with the functions of a member of the Authority."

Matters relating to appointment

Mr Routier was due to retire as a Voting Member of the Data Protection Authority on 1st February 2027. However, on 6th November 2026, the Minister received 3 months' notice of resignation for another Voting Member of the Data Protection Authority, who has had to formally tend their resignation so that they can take up a position on the board of the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP).

With the loss of two Voting Members in early February 2027, this would leave the Authority below the minimum of Chair plus 3 Voting Members, as required by the 2018 Law. The recruitment process of the last Voting Member took 6 months to complete and therefore both the Chair and the Minister highlight the risk that the Authority would be less than the legal minimum requirement should the recruitment process not be completed by early February 2027.

Therefore, the Minister seeks to reappointment of Mr Paul Routier for a further 3 months, to 2nd May 2027, to mitigate this risk.

Mr Routier was initially appointed as a Voting Member of the Authority on 1st August 2019 for 3 years. In August 2022 his appointment was extended for a further 3 years until August 2025. To support the then newly appointed Chair of the Authority, the Minister extended Mr Routier's appointment from 1st August 2025 by a further 18 months, until 1st February 2027. The current reappointment is for a further 3 months, until 2nd May 2027. This will bring Mr Routier's period of service with the Authority to 7 years 9 months.

Article 3 of the 2018 Law requires the Minister to appoint Voting Members of the Authority and states the maximum period of service for such members is 9 years.

Mr Routier is currently chair of the Authority's Human Resources and Remuneration Committee, providing governance oversight and guidance and continues to provide a valuable contribution to the Authority in this role and as the Authority delivers against their new strategic ambitions.

The continuation of his appointment will assist in maintaining a mix of experienced and new Authority Members along with a balance of international and local appointments. His political insight, together with his public sector knowledge and retail business sector experience will support the recruitment process of new Voting Members.

Mr Routier does not currently sit on any other Boards of significant government grant supported bodies.

The Minister is not aware of any circumstances that would make Mr Routier ineligible for re-appointment as a Voting Member.

Biographical details: Mr Paul Routier MBE

Mr Routier MBE served as an elected as a member of the States of Jersey for nearly 25 years. During this time, he was Jersey's Minister for Employment and Social Security and latterly appointed as Assistant Minister to the Chief Minister. During his term in office, he championed debates in data protection, leading the establishment of Jersey's own data protection legislative framework, which included the formation of the Data Protection Authority.

Mr Routier has made significant contributions to the Jersey Data Protection Authority, including as Chair of the HR and Remuneration Committee and he will continue to help the Authority drive data protection enforcement and delivery against their new 3year strategic plan.

Beyond data protection, Mr Routier is supportive of local charities which help to improve lives and celebrate successes of adults and young people with learning disabilities. He is currently Chair of the Les Amis' Board of Directors and Trustees.

Financial and staffing implications

Article 7(1) of the 2018 Law states –

"7 Remuneration and resources

(1) The voting members of the Authority are entitled to –

(a) such fees, allowances and other emoluments as expenses as the Minister determines in consultation with the Authority and publishes; and

(b) if the Minister so determines, reasonable out-of-pocket or other expenses occasioned in the course of carrying out the Authority's duties."

Fees payable to Voting Members of the Data Protection Authority are sourced from any annual grant made to the Authority to administer the Data Protection (Jersey) Law 2018 and the Data Protection Authority (Jersey) Law 2018, as well as revenue raised from the annual data protection registration fee. Authority member remuneration and time commitments are reported each year in the Jersey Office of the Information Commissioner's Annual Report. Available at: Governance | Jersey OIC

There are no other financial or manpower implications for the States of Jersey.