



GIBA Statement in Response to the proposed changes to probate arrangements

From: David Oxburgh, Chairman of the Guernsey International Business Association (GIBA)

The finance sector, through GIBA, has for many years encouraged government to change the current system which is one of only a few in the world where probate is granted and administered by a religious body. This is acting as a deterrent for some business, which is being lost to other jurisdictions. GIBA, therefore welcomes the statement from Gavin St Pier, President of Policy & Resources, advising of the plans to move the probate jurisdiction from the Ecclesiastical Court to the Royal Court and is particularly encouraged by the target date for this change of 1 January 2019.

With the equivalent changes having been made in England over 160 years ago and in Jersey nearly 70 years ago, we have been out of step for some time with GIBA having recommended this change for many years. We, therefore, echo yesterday's statement from the President of Policy & Resources, and thank the current Dean, The Very Reverend Tim Barker, for his positive and constructive approach which has been key in enabling industry's desire for the modernisation of Guernsey's probate service to progress, at long last.