

PROPOSED CHANGE TO SUBSCRIPTION LEVELS

PROPOSAL

For the reasons set out below, the Executive Committee propose to change the existing subscription structure of the Society and, in accordance with the Society's Rules, put this proposal to the Members for consideration and approval.

BACKGROUND TO PROPOSED CHANGE TO SUBSCRIPTION LEVELS

The current and expected future structure of the Society's finances shows that, to meet the expected level of regular expenditure and, taking into account the expected level of income from auctions, packets and other income, the Society does not need to continue receiving Member subscriptions at their current level.

This favourable financial position is further enhanced by significant cash reserves built up in prior years, which the Executive Committee intend to use to further enhance the benefits of Society membership.

The Executive Committee believes that Members should make a reasonable contribution towards the benefits attached to membership of the Society. The ongoing benefits of access to the Society's Journal, website and Members' meetings represent a valuable benefit and come at a cost. The payment of a subscription, albeit at a subsidised level, is intended to encourage people to become Members only if they have a real interest in the Channel Islands.

CURRENT STRUCTURE OF SUBSCRIPTION LEVELS

The current structure of Membership categories comprises several different levels of subscription, built on presumptions that subscriptions for older Members should be heavily subsidised and that overseas Members should be charged subscriptions at a higher level than most of those in the UK.

Linking the level of subscriptions to the age or geographic location of Member does not necessarily represent a fair or logical basis of charging for the benefits of membership. All members have access to the Society's website, regardless of where they live; the costs of providing paper copies of the Journal to Members is factored into subscription levels where applicable, taking account of higher costs related to overseas postage rates; and Members' meetings are more of a benefit to UK Members due to their closer proximity to the meeting locations. For all such reasons, the Executive Committee believes that a more simple subscription structure is reasonable and would also be likely to act as an encouragement to prospective new Members.

PROPOSED NEW SUBSCRIPTION STRUCTURE

The new proposed structure presented below sets subscription levels for each category of Member at a similar level of discount to the full allocated cost of running the Society which are applicable to that category; this discount is approximately 50% of the full allocated cost allocated to Members and is the level of discount built into the current subscription for over 65 Members who elect to receive a paper version of the Journal.

It is considered that a less costly and a simpler subscription cost structure can only help to encourage new Members, particularly younger Members who will become the future of the Society. Indeed, to encourage Junior Members into the Society, a nominal level of subscription of £1 is proposed.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY		CURRENT SUBSCRIPTION		PROPOSED SUBSCRIPTION	
RECEIVING PAPER VERSION OF JOURNAL					
Members aged 65 years and over; or Registered Disabled		£15.00		£15.00	
Members aged under 65 years		£25.00		£15.00	
Overseas Members		£30.00		£20.00	
Juniors		£15.00		£1.00	
RECEIVING ELECTRONIC VERSION OF JOURNAL					
Members aged 65 years and over; or Registered Disabled		£12.50		£10.00	
Members aged under 65 years		£20.00		£10.00	
Overseas Members		£20.00		£10.00	
Juniors		£12.50		£1.00	

CHARGING FOR SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Whilst not a matter which requires Member approval, the Executive Committee wish to advise Members of a decision it has made as part of its focus on improving the benefits of Society membership.

An important benefit of Society membership is access to research and presentation material produced by other Members, as published in the Society Journal or in separate books or pamphlets.

For separately-published books and pamphlets, past practice of the Society has been to pay for the costs of publication and then make copies available to Members at a price which provides a reasonable profit for the Society. These profits have contributed to the existing cash reserves enjoyed by the Society.

The Executive Committee has decided to use some of the Society's cash reserves to subsidise periodic books and pamphlets purchased by Members, by charging a nominal amount, with the Society covering all printing and other publication costs and the costs of postage. The nominal price for future publications will be set by the Executive Committee and may vary between publications. The benefit which this subsidy will bring to Members buying the publications will be reflected as a cost in the Society's accounts.