



Guernsey Branch

Dear Members,

Chair's Report

12th February 2021

As the Chair of the Guernsey Branch of the Institute of Directors for the last 24 months, I have pleasure in presenting my annual report.

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I am delighted to have served members as Chair over the past two and a half years and look forward to continuing on the Committee as Vice Chair for a temporary period. I believe this will provide continuity and a smooth transition to our incoming Chair, Wendy Dorey along with that of our committee.

The Secretary's report provides a comprehensive summary of the activity of the Branch this year; I endorse all of the comments and words of thanks included in that report.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my Vice Chair; Wendy Dorey for her support during the last year, and previously Stretch Kontelj, who returned to Australia during the pandemic.

I would like to add special thanks to retiring committee member Steve Falla, who made such a significant contribution to the success of our thriving branch over a number of years. Steve stepped down from the Committee following his successful election as a People's Deputy in the States of Guernsey. Which I'm sure you will join me in congratulating him. Thanks also to Rudi Le Roux who is stepping down as Treasurer. He has done a fantastic job at the helm during his tenure.

2020 has been one of the most challenging years globally and I am proud of our efforts locally to support our Members during this time. Throughout the Covid pandemic we expanded our digital capabilities and with agility launched our Covid webinar series which reached hundreds of members, wherever they were, covering topics from Good Governance to the States of Guernsey's Revive and Thrive Strategy. Our IoD SoundBoard Programme, which mentored those facing challenging times, was launched shortly after lockdown and we have worked extensively behind the scenes to lobby and collaborate with Government to covey our members' needs during the crisis and play our part in spreading the 'Guernsey Together' message.

Your committee have been active and hugely enthusiastic in their roles this past year to promote the reputation and standing of the IoD within Guernsey and representing your interests in a wide variety of areas. We joined with the other business groups in Guernsey to lobby for proportionate Anti-Discrimination Legislation following the publication of a draft Policy Letter. We have always been supportive of such legislation being introduced but firmly believe it has to be appropriate for Guernsey.



Guernsey Branch

Guernsey's economic and social wellbeing depends on a thriving business community and we hope we can work together to bring about legislation that best serves the whole island. We now hope to work alongside Government and other stakeholders throughout the legislative process to ensure a smooth and successful implementation. We will continue to engage with all stakeholders to discuss how we can work together to support our members through education and awareness.

Working alongside The Guernsey International Business Association (GIBA), The Chamber of Commerce, The Confederation of Guernsey Industry (CGI) and The Chartered Institute of Personal Development (CIPD) has been hugely beneficial. It has meant we are communicating with the States with a clearer, cohesive message where our interests align. It has also enabled us to share our knowledge and expertise. We continue to be in regular dialogue and have established quarterly meetings with the Policy & Resources Committee.

The IoD will continue to pursue improvements by liaising with key decision makers and by continuing to be active in consultations in order to represent the best interests of our members and the wider business community.

The Fiscal Review, Anti-Discrimination Legislation, Air, Sea and Digital Connectivity and Covid exit strategy - including the opening of our borders - will all impact our members over the next 12 months. We will continue to consult and engage with our members to ensure our lobbying is as representative as possible.

To align our activity with member's priorities, we have refocused our Lobby groups which take the form of Sub-Groups. Our newly formed Sub-Groups are Machinery of Government, Transport, Digital, Education and Skills, and Tax and Regulatory. We have also introduced Sustainability and Diversity & Inclusion Sub-Groups to work at the heart of everything we do and view our activities through these lenses.

During the year, the committee has continued to hold a number of informal breakfast briefings with politicians and other leaders. These have been very constructive forums for two-way communication and have enabled us to shape the agenda for our events programme, as well as to feed back the views of our members on various topical matters. It is a measure of the standing of the IoD in the community that we have had no difficulty in attracting influential local business and political leaders to these briefings.

We have successfully held a formal Committee recruitment and selection process to replace those retiring and recruited three new committee members during the year, Bob Moore, Louise Reeves and Sally Rochester. Their appointments will be ratified at the AGM.

To enable The Guernsey Branch to be as fair and transparent as possible we have introduced a Conflicts of Interest Policy. This Policy is now published on our website and a Register of Committee members' interests is available upon request. The Policy will be ratified at the AGM.



Guernsey Branch

The membership of the Branch has fluctuated and now stands at 635. As you might expect, a large proportion of our members are from the financial services sector, but it is important to recognise that circa 30% of our membership represent a wide range of other industries from within the island. This healthy mix of membership is something that your committee are keenly aware of when considering representing members' interests and responding to States consultations.

We have a strong and healthy administration office to support the work put in by the committee. I would like to thank former Branch Officer, Tony Brassell, who stepped down after relocating to the UK. Tony was central to the IoD in Guernsey for many years and his work was very much appreciated. I would like to welcome Candice Vermeulen as our new Branch Officer.

Our 2019 Annual Conference was once again a sell-out event and I was delighted to welcome Alastair Stewart as our moderator, along with an excellent array of guest speakers and panellists. The event discussed Guernsey's position on the global climate change crisis. Opening the Convention, Deputy Gavin St Pier said: "Guernsey can choose to step up and lead and this is where the opportunity is, no matter what your views on climate change are. The upsides of being proactive over climate change are far greater than the downsides." The event was thought provoking and inspiring and we will watch closely the development of the island's energy policy.

I would sincerely echo the thanks reflected in our Secretary's report to both the organising committee and sponsors for this event, a huge amount of time and energy goes into ensuring their success. I would like to especially thank Claire Long of Carey Olsen who for many years has been the lead organiser of the event. Claire's dedication and commitment to both the Convention and Mid Term has been outstanding and greatly appreciated. We are delighted that Carey Olsen will remain as main sponsor.

The 2020 Mid-Term Review at times seemed destined to never happen as we had to reschedule the event due to Covid. However, it did finally take place as a physical event in October last year, and was hugely successful in discussing what our members priorities were just before the island's Election. The event also heard from inspiring speaker Natalie Jaresko, the Executive Director of the Puerto Rican Finance Oversight Board and former Finance Director of the Ukraine. Natalie shared her thoughts on the opportunities that Guernsey has to Revive and Thrive and create genuine change. We would like to thank David Ummels for connecting us to Natalie and our members for their ongoing support of these events, which we believe provide an important forum for presenting a united voice for our membership.

In October last year, Guernsey's first island-wide General Election took place. We were extremely active in the run-up to the Election, canvassing our members views on what their priorities were for this States, putting together a briefing document for prospective Deputies and holding a Deputies briefing in collaboration with the G4 within days of the new House being elected. This enabled us to directly engage with - and inform the new States of our members' views.

Education continues to be at the forefront of everything we do. This stretches from our hugely successful Management Shadowing programme which has rebranded to 'Leadership Shadowing', to the Company Direction programme. In between we have held monthly breakfasts, seminars and most recently webinars



Guernsey Branch

with topics relevant to directors and their development. We are extremely grateful to our sponsors for these events, Butterfield, JT, The Evolution Group and Sure.

I am delighted that we have added a new offering to our education programme. The IoD 'Directing Companies in Digital World' Course was introduced and has now been run twice. It is designed to equip Directors leading companies in a digital world and give them a better understanding of the landscape and opportunities. This one-day course is delivered in partnership with Salford University and the GTA. Feedback on the programme has been outstanding. A huge thank you goes to Meriel Lenfestey and the GTA for their significant contribution in designing and bringing this programme to fruition and JT for sponsoring the programme.

We will be congratulating our local candidates who have successfully completed the IoD Company Direction Programme Certificate and Diploma at our Alumni event, as well as those who have achieved Chartered status. We are extremely proud that we boast over 50 Chartered Directors in our membership – the highest proportion per capita of any branch of the IoD.

I would like to record our thanks to Michelle Morley and the GTA who do an excellent job in recruiting and managing the IoD courses locally and to Charlotte Denton who is the Committee lead for Director Development and Chartered Director programmes. I'd also like to personally thank Gordon Wilson and Carol Goodwin who continue as Chartered Director Ambassadors.

A Save the Date to our 2021 Alumni event will soon be sent out to those members who have undertaken the Company Direction programme. The event will this year take the form of summer drinks. We hope that many of you will be able to join us. We are also looking to introduce a series of member-only events this year so do keep an eye out on our calendar. If you haven't already, please do please 'like' and 'follow' the IoD Guernsey Branch on LinkedIn and Twitter for all regular updates.

Well done to Emily Savident, a Ladies' College student, who won the Leadership Shadowing Award (formerly the Management Shadowing Award) in October 2019. Emily shadowed Darryl Corbin, and his team in Health and Social Care at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital, who are responsible for the housekeeping, catering and laundry services which keep the hospital running. Thank you to all members that acted as host companies and to KPMG our sponsor for this hugely successful programme. We are looking forward to its return this year.

In December last year we held our inaugural IoD Guernsey Careers Inspiration Summit, which provided insights and inspiration for local students, with entrepreneurs and industry professionals sharing their career journeys and experiences in business. Thanks goes to the event sponsors the Ana Leaf Foundation, KPMG, Deloitte, Mourant, Praxis and Leapfrog Recruitment.

Finally, I would like to ask you, our members, to make your views known to us. We provide a wide programme of events and respond to consultations based on our understanding of your interests and views. If there are matters of interest to you that we are not addressing, please contact our Branch Officer.



Guernsey Branch

Please also encourage your colleagues to apply for membership as we aim to be fully representative of the needs of business leaders in Guernsey.

On that note I wish you all a successful year in business and personal development and look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to future events. I also wish my successor, Wendy Dorey, the best of luck over her term as Chair.

John Clacy
Branch Chairman
February 2021