

Douzaines and Constables



The States of Deliberation (commonly known as "The States") is the island's parliament. In addition to parliament and central government, are local administration areas known as parishes.

The Douzaine

The administration of each parish is carried out by an elected council of residents called the Douzaine. Douzeniers, the residents who work as volunteers for each parish Douzaine, are elected every four years.

A Douzaine Committee is typically made up of twelve members (as the name suggests, this comes from the French word "Douze" or twelve). There are two exceptions to the number of members in the Douzaine, these being the largest parish of St Peter Port and the parish of the Vale (which was once two parishes), which have more Douzeniers.

Each Douzaine meets monthly to discuss parish matters - there are eleven full meetings of the Douzaines each year.

The Douzaine is responsible for the vision, direction, transparency and engagement of parish affairs. There is a Dean of the Douzaine and a Vice-Dean. Each parish also has two Constables who are elected residents of that parish. All are non-salaried positions.

The Douzaine also acts as a 'sounding board' on proposed States' policy on issues that may affect the parish and also as a channel for parishioners' views. To fund the functions of the Douzaine, residents pay 'parish rates'. These are currently raised on a ratio basis on the Tax on Real Property (TRP) value for properties and land in the parish.

Constables

Constables are elected to serve for terms of up to three years; they carry out the day-to-day administration of parochial affairs, on behalf of the Douzaine.

The Constables are responsible for the collection and disbursement of local taxes and duties, the maintenance of parish assets, and the efficiency of parish management. The Constables, in consultation with the Dean and assisted by the parish secretary, organise the tasks of the parish year, propose the structure and timetable of parish business, draw up the agendas for meetings, including regular reports from Douzaine sub-committees to the full Douzaine, provide the Douzaine with information, and keep the records including the accounts.

Among the many varied duties, this includes, the overseeing of the twice-yearly cutting and clearing of hedges, banks and douts, which occurs in June and October.

They also:

- Administer parish cemeteries
- Maintain wayside pumps and troughs
- Collect parish rates
- Issue dog licences and collect dog tax
- Manage parish boat moorings

What is the Youth Forum for Guernsey and Alderney?



The Youth Forum for Guernsey and Alderney brings together young people from across the Bailiwick to represent the voice of their peers, and to ensure the voice of young people is heard within the decision making process, both in the Bailiwick and further abroad.

Who makes up the Youth Forum?

The Youth Forum has spaces for 38 members, these are young people between the ages of 11-25. Usually they will go through an election process to represent their schools and groups on the forum.

Who leads the work of the Youth Forum?

The Forum, and its work, is led solely by members elected to its main Forum body (the 38 members). Democratic process is important in the Forum and any decisions taken by the Forum are put to a membership vote. The Forum is supported by the Youth Commission for Guernsey and Alderney who provide the Forum with staff time and administrative support. The Youth Commission do not shape or have input on the direct work or views of the Youth Forum.

How often does the Forum meet?

The Youth Forum meets six times a year for full member meetings. These meetings last for around five hours at a time. This time is reserved for visiting groups, agencies and departments who may wish to seek the Forum's views.

How can you get in touch with the Youth Forum?

There are two main ways you can take your issues to the Youth Forum to discuss. First, is through your representatives in your school and youth groups. Simply tell them your issues and they will raise it in Youth Forum meetings. If this is an island wide issue the Youth Forum will engage with decision makers. The second, is through social media by including #YFListenUp on your social media post – the Youth Forum will discuss the points raised at its meetings.

How can I join the Youth Forum?

To be a part of the Youth Forum you need to be elected by either your school or youth group. Each representative sits on the forum for two years and once this period is over the Youth Forum aims to hold an immediate new election.

If you are interested in when this may happen or would like more information please contact the Youth Forum via social media.

You can follow the Youth Forum on social media by searching @youthforgsyald

