



NEWS RELEASE

## **Public exhibition to mark the 130th anniversary of the States Chamber**

### **Public tours of the Chamber to be held**

An exhibition to mark the 130th anniversary of the opening of the States Chamber will be launched later in June.

The current States Chamber was used for the first time on 21st June 1887. That was the day on which Queen Victoria celebrated her Golden Jubilee and the Chamber's opening formed part of the festivities. Prior to that time, the States Assembly had shared facilities with the Royal Court and it was only on that day in 1887 that the Assembly was provided with a dedicated room befitting its status as the Island's parliament. The opening of the Chamber was a crucial stage in the development of the States.

The exhibition, to be launched by the Bailiff at an event on 21st June, will explain how the Chamber came to be built where it sits today – a decision that followed several years of lively discussion and debate. The exhibition has been put together by the States Greffe and will be open to the public from 22nd June. It will initially be housed in the States and Court Building in the Royal Square. It will then go 'on tour' around the Parishes and, following agreement from the 12 Connétables, will be housed in each of the Parish Halls in turn.

The Greffier of the States, Dr. Mark Egan, said:

*“It is our aim in the States Greffe to ensure that Islanders are better informed about the work of the States Assembly and have more opportunities to engage with, and influence, that work. An important part of that comes through raising awareness of the Assembly's history.*

*Not many places in the world can boast a parliamentary institution which has lasted for over 500 years. This is a history to be recognised, celebrated and cherished. The Assembly is part of the fabric of Jersey's society and the Island should be proud of it. The story of how the building of the States is one part of that rich history, showing as it does how the Island's parliament came to be given a suitable location in which the Island's laws are made.”*

Alongside the exhibition, public tours of the States Chamber will be offered during the mornings of Saturday 24th June and Saturday 1st July 2017. These will provide an opportunity for the public to see the Chamber from the perspective of States members, to sit in the seats occupied by members, and to learn about how the States operates.

Places on the tours will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis. Places can be booked by contacting the States Greffe on 441020, or at [statesgreffe@gov.je](mailto:statesgreffe@gov.je), or via the Assembly's website: [www.statesassembly.gov.je](http://www.statesassembly.gov.je)