



Open letter to the Chief Pleas of Sark
La Chasse Marquette
Sark

3 July 2012

Dear Colleagues,

SUPPORT FOR REFORM IN SARK

I would like to thank you for your kindness to me and my team during our visit to Sark on 7 June. Despite the weather and a rather choppy crossing, I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and I would like to thank all those who helped with the arrangements.

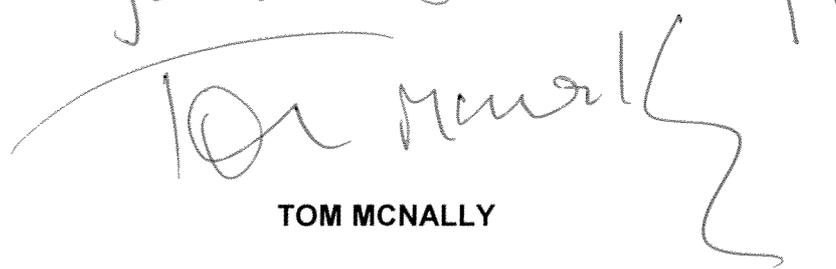
During my visit, I was encouraged to hear about the work the Sark Government is undertaking to improve its administrative and executive support arrangements and to identify and consider how to tackle the range of challenges that lie ahead to secure Sark's long term future. In my view, Sark needs to adapt and change to preserve those qualities that make it such a special and unique community; I know this is also one of the recommendations in the independent report published in May.

We agreed during our discussions that it is for the people of Sark to decide what the priorities for the future are and how to address them. The UK Government, along with other "friends of Sark" (including Guernsey, Alderney, Jersey and the Isle of Man), stands ready to provide practical support where you would wish to draw on this. Areas where we may be able to share best practice with you and identify expertise could include:

- facilitating workshops for members of the Chief Pleas on strategic planning;
- identifying an independent expert to work with the Chief Pleas to create a 'quality of life survey' to help identify the priorities of those living on the Island;
- sharing recruitment/employment material to help identify the interim civil service support recommended in the independent report to take forward this important change agenda; and
- identifying sources of independent advice on key policy issues, which may include land reform, energy, economic diversification, the environment, community engagement and corporate governance.

I fully understand and respect how Sark values its independence and its right to self-determination. However, I hope I have also demonstrated my own commitment to helping Sark determine its own future. As I made clear on my recent visit, I genuinely believe that the independent report offers a way forward around which all on Sark can unite.

For its part, the UK Government stands ready to help in that process. Sark is at an important point in its history. I would encourage all those who have an interest in Sark and its future to work together to ensure it adapts effectively to the challenges it faces.

Yours Sincerely,


TOM MCNALLY

