

## THE CHANNEL ISLANDS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION: TAX COOPERATION

### Executive Summary

1. Guernsey and Jersey are recognised as reliable, active and cooperative partners of the EU and of the wider international community. This was recognised most recently by EU Finance Ministers (ECOFIN) who, on 12 March 2019, confirmed that Guernsey and Jersey were cooperative jurisdictions, following a rigorous assessment process coordinated by the EU's Code of Conduct Group on Business Taxation. It is evidenced by:
  - i. **Tax policy principles:** Guernsey and Jersey's corporate tax policies are based on two key principles, both of which are underpinned by strong general anti-avoidance rules: non-discrimination between resident and non-resident owned companies; and tax neutrality combined with transparency and information exchange.
  - ii. **Adherence to EU Code of Conduct principles:** The Islands committed voluntarily to the principles of the EU Code of Conduct on Business Taxation in 2003. Their corporate tax regimes were assessed by the Code peer review process and accepted as being Code compliant in 2011/2012.
  - iii. **Economic substance:** A new Economic Substance Regime in each island, enshrined in domestic law, came into effect on 1 January 2019. All companies that are tax resident in Guernsey and Jersey must comply with this new regime. Failure to do so will result in application of sequential sanctions: escalating financial penalties, the spontaneous exchange of information, and ultimately company strike off.
  - iv. **Exchange of Information:** They were early adopters of the global Common Reporting Standard on automatic exchange of information. They received "Compliant" ratings (the highest) in the most recent Global Forum assessments of exchange of information on request.
  - v. **BEPS:** They are active participants in the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Inclusive Framework and have committed to implement the BEPS minimum standards. They have introduced into domestic law the OECD standard for country by country reporting (CBCR) by large multinational corporations (BEPS Action 13), exchange tax rulings (BEPS Action 5), and have signed and ratified the Multilateral Instrument (MLI).
  - vi. **Mandatory disclosure:** They have committed to introduce legislation before 31 December 2019 to implement rules on mandatory disclosure of tax advice by intermediaries aligned to international standards being developed in the OECD.
  - vii. **AML/CFT:** The assessments of Guernsey and Jersey by MONEYVAL, published in 2016, of compliance with the FATF 2003 recommendations for anti-money laundering (AML) and countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) produced ratings which compared very favourably with those for other jurisdictions assessed against the same recommendations.
  - viii. **Beneficial ownership:** They have received international recognition for providing accurate, adequate and timely information on the beneficial ownership of companies. They committed to the new international initiative to develop a new global standard for the automatic exchange of BOI. They further committed, in 2018, to work with the EU to ensure reciprocal sharing of company BOI with EU tax and law enforcement authorities.
  - ix. **Financial regulation:** They are internationally recognised for their quality of financial regulation, which was assessed in 2014 as being in the top tier by the Financial Stability Board.
  - x. **Data protection:** Guernsey and Jersey have data protection regimes similar to the GDPR which the European Commission has assessed as meeting EU standards ("adequacy").

## Introduction

2. The Channel Islands (“the Islands”) consist of the Bailiwicks of Guernsey and Jersey. They are British Crown Dependencies. They are not part of the United Kingdom, but the UK has ultimate responsibility for their external affairs and defence. The Islands enjoy a high degree of autonomy, including their own fiscal and judicial systems, and receive no financial subsidy from the UK or the EU. By virtue of Protocol 3 of the UK’s Accession Treaty, the Islands are part of the Customs Union and within the Single Market for the purposes of trade in goods but are third countries (i.e. outside the EU) in all other respects.
3. When the UK leaves the EU, Protocol 3 will no longer apply, subject to any transition provisions that may be agreed. However, the relationship and the cooperation between the Islands and the EU in areas outside Protocol 3, including tax and financial services, are not directly affected by Brexit as the Islands’ existing status as third countries is unchanged.
4. The OECD Convention was extended to Guernsey and Jersey in 1990 and they are part of the UK for the purposes of its membership of the OECD. OECD Decisions and Recommendations apply to Guernsey and Jersey to the same extent as they do to the UK unless the contrary is specifically stated in a particular case.

## Tax policy in the Channel Islands

5. Public finances around Europe remain under pressure and EU Member States are seeking to maximise tax revenues, including by reducing tax evasion and fraud, and to prevent abusive tax avoidance. The Chief Ministers of Guernsey and Jersey have both made clear that the Islands have no desire or need to harbour abusive schemes and will continue to work with international tax authorities to eliminate them.
6. The Islands have the same need as EU Member States (MS) to protect their public finances, which are also totally dependent on direct and indirect taxation regimes designed to meet the domestic economic needs of each jurisdiction. For individuals, the standard and maximum rate of income tax is 20%. Since 2008 the standard corporate rate of tax has been 0%, certain financial service activities are taxed at 10% and utilities (e.g. providers of telephone services), large retailers and companies deriving income from an interest in local property are taxed at 20%.
7. The tax policies of Guernsey and Jersey are underpinned by strong general anti-avoidance rules (GAAR). In addition, there are no allowances or exemptions of the sort found in many other countries which have the effect of producing effective rates of corporate tax much lower than the headline rate. With their relatively simple tax structures the Islands also have no call for tax rulings of the kind found in many other jurisdictions, though they have committed under BEPS to the automatic exchange of any tax rulings that might be made.
8. It is sometimes argued that the very existence of a standard rate of 0% corporate tax is harmful and contributes to tax avoidance. However, it should be recalled that the OECD itself has confirmed that “low or no taxation” is not of itself harmful, while the EU, in assessing third country tax regimes, has clearly stated that low or no corporate tax is not in itself a basis for judging non-cooperation. It is only harmful if discriminatory and combined with little or no transparency and information exchange, neither of which is the case in Guernsey and Jersey.
9. The standard rate of 0% corporate tax is based on two key principles. One is the EU Code of Conduct principle of non-discrimination between resident and non-resident owned companies. The other is the principle of tax neutrality combined with transparency. As international finance centres, Guernsey and Jersey act as “financial entrepôts” in facilitating the investment of funds drawn from around the world into European financial markets. The return to the investors should be taxed in

their home country and the business activity generated by the investment in Europe should be taxed in the jurisdiction where that activity takes place, and this requires compliance with the international standards on transparency and information exchange.

10. Tax neutrality in the jurisdiction where the fund is registered ensures investors are not penalised for the lack of a fully functional double taxation treaty network with the EU MS. This does not mean investors do not pay taxes – either in their own jurisdiction or the jurisdiction where the fund invests. Information is forwarded by Guernsey and Jersey to the countries concerned, under multilateral and bilateral agreements, to help them make accurate tax assessments.
11. With this in mind, Guernsey and Jersey have given their full support for the transparency principles central to the current G20, OECD and EU tax initiatives. The Islands have common cause with the EU in tackling tax evasion, fraud and aggressive tax avoidance and believe these objectives are best achieved by working in partnership, as part of the wider international community, in the development and effective implementation of internationally agreed standards, including those set by the FATF and the OECD.
12. The Islands voluntarily committed to the principles of the EU's Code of Conduct on Business Taxation in 2003. The Guernsey and Jersey corporate tax regimes were assessed by the Code peer review process (most recently Jersey in 2011, and Guernsey in 2012). The rollback measures to remove the harmful elements identified by the Group were speedily implemented to ensure continuing compliance with the Code principles.

#### EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes

13. Pierre Moscovici, the EU Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs, stated after meeting the Chief Ministers of Guernsey and Jersey on 13 January 2016:

*"I very much welcome the continued active engagement of Guernsey and Jersey in the key international initiatives for fighting tax evasion, fraud and abusive tax avoidance, in which they are important partners of the EU and [which] reinforce their standing as cooperative jurisdictions."*

14. On 12 March 2019, EU Finance Ministers (ECOFIN) formally confirmed Guernsey's and Jersey's positions as cooperative jurisdictions. This followed a two-year process that started in November 2016 when ECOFIN approved criteria for establishing an EU list of "non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes" (NCJs). The criteria related to transparency and exchange of information; fair tax competition; and G20/OECD BEPS standards.
15. Guernsey and Jersey were among 92 jurisdictions to be invited by the EU, in January 2017, to participate in the "screening" of their tax regimes. Both governments confirmed their willingness to do so and provided all the information requested by the EU in connection with the screening process.
16. Jurisdictions were sent letters in November 2017 by the Chair of the EU's Code of Conduct Group (CoCG) with the provisional findings. Where jurisdictions were found to have failed one or more of the criteria used for the screening, they were invited by the CoCG to make a commitment to address the identified concerns by the end of 2018.
17. In the case of Guernsey and Jersey, the provisional finding was that both Islands were fully compliant with the criteria relating to tax transparency (criterion 1), the absence of preferential tax regimes (criterion 2.1), and commitment to BEPS (criterion 3). However, the CoCG's provisional assessment was that Guernsey and Jersey did not have adequate economic substance requirements and hence were provisionally assessed as not meeting criterion 2.2 ("the jurisdiction

should not facilitate offshore structures aimed at attracting profits which do not reflect real economic activity in the jurisdiction”).

18. Letters were sent in reply to the Chair of the CoCG in November 2017 by the Guernsey and Jersey Chief Ministers – and made public by the Islands - making unequivocal commitments to address the concerns identified. ECOFIN on 5 December 2017 decided that over half of the 92 screened jurisdictions, including Guernsey and Jersey, should be classed as “cooperative, subject to implementation of commitments” (“Annex II”).
19. In December 2018, Ministerial letters to the Chair of the CoCG confirmed that Guernsey and Jersey had fulfilled their commitments, by putting in place a comprehensive and robust legal regime. They expressed the view that this represented an effective and proportionate response to the concerns identified by the CoCG. This view was endorsed by ECOFIN on 12 March 2019.
20. The new Economic Substance Regime in each island, enshrined in domestic law, came into effect on 1 January 2019. All companies that are tax resident in Guernsey and Jersey must comply with this new regime for accounting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2019 and for all subsequent accounting periods. Failure to comply will result in application of the sanctions specified in the new regime. These sanctions are sequential and consist of escalating financial penalties; the spontaneous exchange of information; and ultimately company strike off.
21. In developing the new substance regime, Guernsey and Jersey have worked closely with the Isle of Man. The three Crown Dependencies (CDs) valued the good working relationship established with the Commission Services (DG TAXUD) in the past year and welcomed the constructive feedback received from the Commission and, through the Commission, from the CoCG as they have developed their respective legislation. This view was reciprocated. The published assessment by the Commission states:

*“The dialogue with the UK Crown Dependencies was constant and constructive with several conference calls and meetings. The Commission Services reported regularly to Member States on the progress of the discussion with the CDs. The CDs shared several versions of their draft legislation and sought feedback from the CoCG.”*

22. Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man were among only 25 jurisdictions to be removed by ECOFIN on 12 March 2019 from Annex II (in effect, “whitelisted”). At that meeting ECOFIN also announced that there were 34 jurisdictions on Annex II (which some had unofficially characterised as a “grey list”) and 15 on Annex I (the “black list”).

#### National Blacklists

23. Some EU MS include within their tax legislation a list of third country jurisdictions regarding whom the MS applies predefined tax measures or tax policies (e.g. a higher rate of withholding tax or enhanced due diligence procedures by financial institutions). These so-called “national blacklists” are based on assorted criteria, such as rates of taxation or non-cooperation (which is itself defined in different ways, most commonly linked to cooperation through a TIEA or similar exchange of information instrument).
24. As noted, although the Islands have a zero rate of corporate tax, this is required to achieve tax neutrality and the avoidance of double taxation in the absence of double tax treaties. Their compliance with international standards of transparency, their consistent support for international tax initiatives and for EU principles of tax good governance and the formal confirmation by ECOFIN on 12 March 2019 of Guernsey and Jersey’s status as cooperative jurisdictions, mean that there should be no justification for the Islands being placed on a national black list just because they have

a nil corporate tax rate. They are actively working with those MS that still include them on their national list to achieve de-listing.

#### Future cooperation with the EU

25. Guernsey and Jersey attach importance to maintaining their position as cooperative jurisdictions, and to continuing to be good neighbours to the EU on tax matters. In this regard, they recognise the importance of the continuing constructive dialogue with the CoCG and the Commission on the effectiveness of the legal substance requirements. This includes monitoring the effectiveness of their Economic Substance Regimes, in particular the enforcement efforts, in order to remedy any shortcomings in that regard. This will ensure that the sanction regime remains rigorous, effective and dissuasive.
26. Guernsey and Jersey welcome the opportunity to contribute to the development of the nature, format and methodology of this monitoring process, building on useful initial exchanges with the Commission Services in 2018. They believe it would be beneficial to align the monitoring as closely as possible to the monitoring that will be carried out on the implementation of agreed international standards, especially the monitoring that the OECD has established in the Forum for Harmful Tax Practices (FHTP).
27. Looking to the future, the annual monitoring process proposed by the CoCG for all screened jurisdictions will form part of the Islands' wider engagement strategy as cooperative jurisdictions, as well as promoting a level playing field in the application of the Code of Conduct principles – principles to which the Islands have been voluntarily committed for many years. They look forward to developing this engagement with the EU on a transparent, constructive and mutually beneficial basis during the coming years.
28. That future dialogue would include engagement with the EU on the development of the additional transparency measures outlined in the CoCG 'Scoping Paper' of June 2018 intended to further enhance transparency. The Ministerial letters to the Chair of the CoCG in December 2018 set out the CDs response on these points. Building upon the commitment to help develop a new international standard for exchange of beneficial ownership information made in 2016, Guernsey and Jersey will work with the EU to ensure on a reciprocal basis that legal and beneficial ownership information in relation to bodies corporate is able to be appropriately shared with EU tax and law enforcement authorities.
29. Guernsey and Jersey will also introduce legislation before 31 December 2019 to implement mandatory disclosure rules aligned to international standards being developed in the OECD. (31 December 2019 is the same deadline as MS have for implementing the 6th Directive on Administrative Cooperation – DAC 6 - which introduces mandatory disclosure rules within the EU.)

#### Cooperation with the European Parliament (EP)

30. Guernsey and Jersey engage actively with the EP on tax issues. The Chief Ministers of Guernsey and Jersey met the Chair of the EP's special Committee on tax rulings (TAXE 1) in May 2015 and both Islands voluntarily provided written submissions to the Committee. In March 2016 officials from the Islands gave evidence at a hearing of the second special Committee (TAXE 2). In May 2017 officials also gave evidence at a hearing of the EP Committee of Inquiry into the Panama Papers (PANA), focusing on tax and beneficial ownership.

#### Exchange of Information on Request (EOIR)

31. In 2004 Guernsey and Jersey voluntarily entered into bilateral arrangements with all MS under the EU Savings Directive (EUSD) which remained in force until the EUSD was repealed and overtaken by

automatic exchange of information. Guernsey and Jersey have each signed and ratified many Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs) and Double Taxation Agreements (DTAs). They thus have legal frameworks for EOIR with all MS, either through a TIEA or DTA or through the Council of Europe/OECD Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (MAC).

32. In the latest assessments by the OECD Global Forum both Jersey (November 2017) and Guernsey (July 2018) were rated fully compliant in respect of EOIR. These assessments were based on the Global Forum's revised terms of reference which place much greater emphasis on the availability and accessibility of ultimate beneficial ownership information.

#### Automatic exchange of information (AEOI)

33. Guernsey and Jersey committed in May 2013 to join the G5 countries initiative to establish and pilot an international standard for AEOI between tax authorities. In late 2013, they signed intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) with the US (under FATCA) and with the UK (based on FATCA). In 2014, they acceded to the MAC.
34. Building on the G5 initiative, the Islands joined in the joint statement on 19 March 2014 committing to the early adoption of the global Common Reporting Standard (CRS) on AEOI. The first exchange of information in relation to new accounts and pre-existing individual high value accounts took place at the end of September 2017. Guernsey and Jersey have taken an active role at the OECD: Jersey is a vice-chair of the Global Forum on Tax Transparency's AEOI working group. Guernsey is also a member of the working group and the Global Forum Peer Review Group.
35. On 29 October 2014, Guernsey and Jersey were among over 50 jurisdictions to sign the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement (MCAA) in Berlin as a further step towards implementation of the CRS. The bilateral arrangements between the Islands and EU MS under the EUSD (see para 31), which were limited to the interest income of individuals, were replaced in 2016 by AEOI under the CRS, which provides information on a much wider range of entities and financial information. In substance, this delivers the same outcome as the EU's agreements on AEOI with Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino and Switzerland.

#### Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS)

36. The Governments of Guernsey and Jersey have expressed clear and full support for the actions being taken under the BEPS initiative to reach a globally fair and modern international tax system. In 2016 Guernsey and Jersey accepted the OECD's invitation to become BEPS Associates and Members of the newly-established OECD BEPS Inclusive Framework. The purpose of the Inclusive Framework is to ensure the effective implementation of BEPS on a global basis, similar to the role of the Global Forum on international tax transparency.
37. As BEPS Associates, the Islands contribute to the overall development of the BEPS programme through policy dialogue and exchange of information, by participating on an equal footing with OECD, G20 and many other countries and jurisdictions, including a significant number of developing countries.
38. BEPS refers to tax planning strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to artificially shift profits to low or no-tax locations where there is little or no economic activity. The BEPS package provides 15 Actions that will equip governments with the domestic and international instruments needed to tackle BEPS. Tools ensure that profits are taxed where economic activities generating the profits are performed and where value is created. They are intended to give businesses greater certainty by reducing disputes over the application of international tax rules and standardising compliance requirements.

39. The basic proposal that profits should be taxed where the economic activity that generates the profits is carried out, and where value is created, fits well with Guernsey and Jersey's long-standing policy of requiring regulated financial institutions, such as the banks, to have a real physical presence on the Islands and to be of substance.
40. The Islands are watching closely the action being taken by members of the G20, the OECD and the EU to implement BEPS, particularly in respect to aspects which are of greatest relevance to them. The Islands have therefore noted the EU's adoption in July 2016 of the Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive (ATAD) and the subsequent adoption in June 2017 of a further Directive specifically on hybrid mismatches (ATAD 2).
41. All BEPS Associates are committed to consistent implementation of the BEPS package, including its four minimum standards which includes the exchange of tax rulings, under Action 5, which both islands implemented in 2017, and country by country reporting (CBCR) under Action 13. Following industry and public consultations, Guernsey and Jersey have implemented the OECD standard to extend the scope of AEOI to exchange CBCR between tax authorities. In the EU this has been implemented through the Administrative Cooperation Directive (DAC 4) adopted in May 2016.
42. In addition to domestic legislation, Guernsey and Jersey signed, on 21 October 2016, the OECD multilateral CBCR instrument that opened for signature on 27 January 2016. Commenting on this, the OECD Secretary General, Angel Gurría, said: *"I congratulate Guernsey and Jersey on their efforts toward implementing the BEPS package, and on their important role in advancing greater international tax cooperation and transparency."* Jersey is vice chair and Guernsey is a member of the ad hoc working group established by the OECD to monitor international implementation of CBCR. Jersey is also a member of the Steering Group.
43. Guernsey and Jersey are also members of the OECD ad hoc working group that has developed the multilateral treaty to implement BEPS treaty related measures and amend bilateral treaties. They were amongst the first wave of jurisdictions to sign this Multilateral Instrument, at the OECD on 7 June 2017. In December 2017, Jersey adopted domestic implementing legislation and thus became the third jurisdiction worldwide to complete ratification. Guernsey completed its internal ratification procedures in December 2018.
44. Jersey and Guernsey participate actively in BEPS Working Groups. In July 2017 Jersey was elected to the Ad Hoc Advisory Task Force established to provide advice on the future work of BEPS Working Party 1 (on tax conventions) and Working Party 6 (on taxation of multinational enterprises). Jersey is the only non-sovereign jurisdiction on this Task Force.

#### Tax and development

45. The Islands recognise the importance of tax issues for the international development agenda. They are actively exploring ways of helping developing countries to enhance their revenue raising capacity, working in collaboration with other international partners. Both Islands have put in place legislation designed to stop creditors, including so-called "Vulture Funds", from pursuing inequitable payments from "heavily indebted poor countries" (as defined by the IMF/World Bank) through the Guernsey and Jersey courts.
46. They are actively engaged in international efforts to help developing countries recover assets illicitly moved out of their countries. Channel Islands authorities have assisted in prosecutions affecting jurisdictions as diverse as Brazil, Kenya, Indonesia, Nigeria, Norway, Denmark, South Africa and the United States, resulting in significant restraint, confiscation and repatriation of assets.

### Tackling financial crime

47. Guernsey and Jersey were both assessed and rated highly by MONEYVAL when measured against the historic 2003 international standards for anti-money laundering (AML) and combatting terrorist financing (CFT) set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Both have had tax crimes as a predicate offence for anti-money laundering purposes for more than a decade.
48. Both Guernsey and Jersey were reviewed by MONEYVAL in 2016. The cycle of assessments against the new 2012 FATF standards has begun and the Islands expect to be next assessed in 2020. In the meantime, a programme of legislation is underway designed, together with the undertaking of a National Risk Assessment (NRA) and law enforcement action, to ensure that when the next assessment is carried out the outcome will be as good as the previous assessment.
49. The Islands are internationally recognised for providing accurate, adequate and timely information on the beneficial ownership (BOI) of companies. This position is also reflected in the roles the Islands play in the work of the European Business Registry.
50. The Islands are committed to compliance with FATF Recommendations 24 and 25 on transparency and beneficial ownership of legal persons and legal arrangements, reflected also in the EU 4th and 5th AML Directives. With the EU MS, Guernsey and Jersey have committed to develop and implement a new global standard for the automatic exchange of BOI. This initiative was launched by the G5 countries in April 2016 following the Panama Papers scandal. It is being taken forward by the OECD and FATF at the request of the G20.
51. As noted above, building on this commitment, Guernsey and Jersey will work with the EU to ensure, on a reciprocal basis, that legal and beneficial ownership information in relation to bodies corporate is able to be appropriately shared with EU tax and law enforcement authorities.
52. With respect to trusts and companies, Guernsey and Jersey have regulated Trust and Company Service Providers (TCSPs) since 2000. TCSPs are required to hold and keep up to date BOI for all structures administered by them. This information is available to the Islands' financial regulators and law enforcement authorities. It can be provided to competent authorities in other jurisdictions using gateways provided for in the legislation, as well as under the Islands' tax and mutual legal assistance (MLA) agreements.
53. In its March 2016 report on Jersey, MONEYVAL stated that Jersey's combination of a central register of ultimate beneficial ownership with a high level of vetting and evaluation not found elsewhere and regulation of TCSPs of a standard found in few other jurisdictions "has been widely recognised by international organisations as placing Jersey in a leading position in meeting standards of beneficial ownership transparency." Guernsey's central registry of company BOI became operational in August 2017.

### Financial regulation

54. Guernsey and Jersey are significant net providers of liquidity and investment funds to the European economy, as has been demonstrated by various independent studies. For both Islands combined the level of banking deposits is around £210 billion and of institutional and retail funds under management and administration of around £572 billion. These deposits and funds are drawn into the UK and the rest of Europe largely from the rest of the world and the Islands' marketing efforts are directed at increasing this flow from the Far East, Gulf and other wealth creating countries outside of Europe.

55. Guernsey and Jersey have robust and internationally respected systems of financial regulation. There is no banking secrecy in Guernsey or Jersey and, as noted above, both Islands are world leaders in the regulation of TCSPs.
56. In November 2011, the Financial Stability Board (FSB) published its assessment of jurisdictions' international cooperation and information exchange against the prevailing financial regulation standards. Guernsey and Jersey were listed as jurisdictions "demonstrating sufficiently strong adherence to the relevant international standards" (so-called group 1 status). This assessment was re-confirmed in the 2014 update report published by the FSB.
57. The Islands' financial regulators have developed excellent regulatory cooperation with their EU counterparts, including with the European Supervisory Authorities. Guernsey and Jersey were among the first jurisdictions to conclude Memoranda of Understanding with most EU MS with respect to market access for national private placement regimes under the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive (AIFMD). These memoranda were negotiated by the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA). In July 2015 and July 2016 ESMA recommended to the Commission that passporting under AIFMD should be extended to Guernsey and Jersey.

#### Data protection

58. The protection of personal data is vital for public bodies, including tax and regulatory authorities. Guernsey and Jersey's domestic data protection legislation is based on EU law. Guernsey and Jersey are among a small group of third country jurisdictions that have been officially assessed as meeting current EU data protection standards and granted equivalence ('adequacy') through individual Commission Decisions. Following the adoption of the new EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the Islands have adopted equivalent changes to domestic legislation. These changes came into application on 25 May 2018, at the same time as the GDPR in the EU.

**Channel Islands Brussels Office, 27 March 2019**