

*Statement from Barrie Baxter*

*I am really sorry I can't be with you today due to an essential travel commitment.*

*Sometimes you have to look back to see how far you have come.*

*It is with this perspective we can perhaps take a moment to reflect on what has been achieved over the last two years.*

*A transformation that was built upon a simple question – how do we best represent the members of this incredible organisation?*

*The vision was to create an organisation that was focused on, and representative and empowering of, our membership.*

*We wanted to create the space for people to meet and interact;*

*We wanted to create the communications platforms to connect with community, government and each other;*

*We wanted to enable and facilitate our members to grow their businesses and contribute to society.*

*We wanted to engage with members, with government and with our community.*

*That's enough of the rear view mirror, but I hope we have come some way towards these aims.*

*Confronted, as we are, with the biggest societal challenge since the war years, Chamber has a vital and significant role to play in helping our community to restore and re-establish and re-emerge as a stronger economy.*

*Enriched by the lessons of our current experience we can all recognise and realise that the strength and power of Guernsey lies in its people. Businesses are people, and, our business community, carrying the lives and livelihoods of our future, will be the engine that delivers this re-establishment of a healthy and prosperous future.*

*Thank you to our membership for entrusting the Presidency to myself and my team over the last two years, and thank you to that team for supporting me to achieve what we have in that time: the Office team, the Exec team, the Industry heads, the Policy and Initiative leaders that all stepped forward to help and support myself. I hope we have served you well and created the platform that will grow and continue to achieve all of the positive outcomes we wish for.*

*It is an absolute pleasure to hand over the reins and I couldn't have wished for a better President to step forward than Elaine.*

*The team that Elaine is bringing together is exceptional and will rise to the challenge of this next exciting period of Chamber evolution.*

*Thank you Elaine, I look forward to supporting you and joining your team.*

*With warmest regards, Barrie.*