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PRACTICE DIRECTION NO 1 OF 2003

Administration of Oaths

7th January, 2003

I am directed by the Bailiff to issue the following Practice Direction

It has been decided that now there are fewer sittings of the Ordinary Court with Bailiff and Jurats upstairs certain categories of public officer who are required to take an oath before the Royal Court should be sworn by the Lieutenant Bailiff and Jurats at the conclusion of the Conveyancing Court and immediately before liquor licence extensions are dealt with (hereinafter identified as 'downstairs').

The categories of officer affected are:

1. Police Officers and Special Constables of 'A', 'B' and 'C' Divisions.

These will be sworn downstairs. The Law Officers need no longer be involved in presenting them. The application will be dealt with by way of a letter addressed to H.M. Greffier by the Chief Officer of Police indicating the day on which it will be convenient for the person concerned to be sworn. *[It is proposed that the oath for Special Constables should be standardised so that the words are administered by the presiding judge and not as happens at the present time in the case of 'B' and 'C' Specials by the officer having to read it out to the Court. 'B' Specials would appear before the Court downstairs rather than before a Jurat alone. This will require legislation].*

2. Deputy Greffiers, Deputy Sheriffs and Deputy Sergeants.

These are people who are going to be working closely with the Court and generally they will continue to be sworn upstairs before the Bailiff and Jurats. Deputy Greffiers will be presented to the Court by the Greffier rather than the Law Officers having to come along and present them and likewise Deputy Sheriffs and Deputy Sergeants can be called before the Court by the Greffier reading out their names. (H.M. Sheriff will have previously sent

a letter to the Greffier asking them to be sworn.) If for some reason there is no convenient upstairs Court for these persons to appear to be sworn, they will be sworn before the downstairs Court.

3. Parish Officials (i.e. Constables, Procureurs and Douzeniers).

These will continue to be sworn upstairs before the Bailiff and Jurats, normally at a sitting just before Christmas. If they are absent de l'île at that time, and there is no convenient Court prior to the 1st January when they take up their duties at which they can be sworn, a special arrangement can be made for them to be sworn downstairs on a convenient day. Otherwise there will be no change and the officials concerned should be presented to the Court by the Law Officers or their representative.

4. Other officials.

These are a collection of offices including membership of the Tax Tribunal and the Seneschal of Sark. It is important that they are identified and introduced to the Court by the Law Officers and they will continue to be sworn upstairs before the Bailiff and Jurats.

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