

Press Release

22nd April 2021

## **IoD Jersey Supporting Businesses to become Environmentally Sustainable**

By 2030, the United Nations reports that the impact of climate change on our environment, quality of life and our economy, will be irreversible—unless we act now. IoD Jersey is holding a studio-styled panel event to provide information for organisations and their staff, to support them in working towards environmental sustainability. The event on May 13<sup>th</sup>, comprises leaders from local businesses, Government and charities.

The 20 warmest years on record have been in the last 22 years. That might seem appealing for Jersey, but it is decreasing oxygen levels, increasing sea temperatures, which kills sea life, and raising ocean levels. Jersey has already seen an increased risk from rising seas, storm surges and unpredictable weather conditions.

This not only impacts our natural environment, but it will also have a big economic cost. The Stern Review\* found that if Jersey doesn't act now, the costs of climate change for our Island will be the equivalent of losing between 5% and 20% of GDP annually. Jersey's Government has therefore committed to carbon neutrality by 2030.

The IoD panel, sponsored by HSBC and JT, will be chaired by Dr Lesley Dickie, CEO of Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, and features:

- Tom Noel – Director of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability – JT Group Ltd
- Sabrin Rahman – Head of Sustainability for Europe and the Middle East, HSBC Bank
- Steven Skelton – Director of Strategy and Innovation – Government of Jersey
- Hilary Jeune – Director of Valuematrix
- Elaine Walsh – Chair of the IoD Jersey Environment Sub Committee

The IoD Jersey Environment Sub Committee recognises that “Environment in ESG” is not easily added as a fifteen minute slot to board meetings because of its breadth and depth. Added to this are the evolving laws, regulations and reporting requirements organisations are facing, in addition to pressure from investors, employees and society to evidence progress. The combined effect of this can be that some businesses are confused, overwhelmed and do not know where to start and/or where to go on "their journey".

In order to support its members, IoD Jersey has developed a framework of 6 “Cs”, being Communicate, Collaborate, Coordinate, Consult, Commit and Celebrate. This framework will enable IoD Jersey to connect members to allow them to share their experiences with each other, recognising that each business may be at a different stage but that through collaboration everyone can progress further and faster.

**Elaine Walsh, Chair of the IoD Jersey Environment Sub-committee, said:**

*‘There is no one way to start an organisation’s path to sustainable environmental health. What we can do is learn from each other and work together to develop an aligned approach that improves our environmental outlook but recognises individual journeys.’*

*‘We hope that, through initiating a conversation between leaders in business, government and community/charity at our first event, we can inspire attendees to start or accelerate “their journey” in order to create a sustainable business environment in Jersey from which businesses, their employees and future generations can all benefit.’*

**Tom Noel, Director of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability at JT Group Ltd, said:**

*‘We’re delighted to have been invited to contribute to this session. The fight to contain climate change requires a genuine commitment from all of us, it’s an opportunity for everyone to work together to protect the world we all share.’*

*At JT we recently launched our 10-year Sustainability Strategy, and in it we’ve set ourselves some ambitious targets, which won’t be achieved overnight. The Strategy has captured the hearts and minds of our people and I truly believe that we have an opportunity as a company and as wider industry to work collaboratively to support the Government to achieve their ambitious plans.’*

**Sabrin Rahman, Head of Sustainability for Europe and the Middle East, HSBC Bank, said:**

*‘In 2020 HSBC announced its ambition to become a net zero bank by 2050, and provide between USD750 billion and USD1 trillion of financing and investment by 2030 to help our clients transition to lower carbon. It’s an ambitious plan to prioritise financing and investment that supports the transition to a net zero global economy but it is one that helps to build a thriving, resilient future for society and businesses. Events such as this with the IoD Jersey, provide a fantastic platform for us to share our sustainability journey and also learn from what other organisations are doing in this area.’*

What Jersey is doing about the Environment in “ESG” (Live Stream) takes place on Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup>. 12.45pm-2.00pm. For further information and to book your free place: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/what-jersey-is-doing-about-the-environment-in-esg-tickets-147797489269>

\*The Stern Review and other data can be found in the Government of Jersey’s Climate change impacts report: <https://www.gov.je/Government/Pages/StatesReports.aspx?ReportID=1098>

**ENDS**

NOTE TO EDITORS

Images of Elaine Walsh, Sabrin Rahman and Tom Noel, attached.



For interviews or further information:

Gwyn GB

T: 07797 715 560

E: [gwyn@gwyngb.com](mailto:gwyn@gwyngb.com)

<https://www.iod.je/>



**IoD Jersey** was founded in 1966 and has over 600 members from all sectors of the business community, both private and public sectors. The local branch promotes the business sector and strives through lobbying to ensure that political decisions do not stifle local business and free enterprise.

The Institute of Directors (IoD) was founded in 1903 and obtained a Royal Charter in 1906. The IoD is a non-party political organisation with approximately 35,000 members in the United Kingdom and overseas. Membership includes directors from right across the business spectrum – from media to manufacturing, professional services to the public and voluntary sectors. Members include CEOs of large corporations as well as entrepreneurial directors of start-up companies.

#### **About JT**

From its origins in 1888, JT is owned, and headquartered in the Channel Islands and as the largest local operator, employs more than 600 people in 7 global locations.

- Our clear purpose is to connect our customers to their sustainable future. To do that, we form long-standing partnerships with leading communications businesses to deliver the products and services expected from a full-service, world-class communications provider.
- JT has completed a socially inclusive project to install a full-fibre broadband network in Jersey, making the island the first jurisdiction in the world to have 100% full-fibre connectivity to all premises, with the third fastest broadband speeds in the world. From January 2020, JT's minimum guaranteed broadband speeds doubled from 250 Mbit/s to 500 Mbit/s with plans to increase this to 1 Gbit/s.
- In Guernsey, we are partnering with Agilisys to support the digital transformation of government services.
- Our CI customers also enjoy an award-winning 4G mobile network, with 5G trials currently underway, making sure islanders benefit from advanced connectivity.
- Globally, our Internet of Things business provides cellular connectivity and remote management of devices worldwide, as well as fraud protection and bulk messaging services, with JT powering close to 10 million SIMS worldwide.



[www.jtglobal.com](http://www.jtglobal.com)

[@JTsocial](https://twitter.com/JTsocial)

[JT Group Limited](https://www.linkedin.com/company/jt-group-limited)

#### **About HSBC**

HSBC is well established in Jersey, providing retail banking, wealth management, commercial and private banking services. For more than 150 years, HSBC has been connecting customers to



opportunities, helping people fulfil their hopes and dreams and realise their ambitions. As one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations, our global businesses serve more than 40 million customers worldwide through a network that covers 64 countries and territories.

At HSBC, we believe we have a responsibility to actively support the communities where our customers and people live and we work to invest in the long-term prosperity of our global communities. We recognise that economic growth must also be sustainable and have embedded a global sustainability strategy to help our business, our customers and our communities grow in ways that work for the world we live in today.

With this in mind, through our Community Partnerships we have pledged long-term support with local charities to help people reach their potential through improving financial literacy and aiding people to access education and training to gain the skills needed to succeed in today's workplace.