

German ambassador praises 'transparency' during visit

by Luke Richardson

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TRANSPARENCY and a willingness to cooperate is clearly visible in Guernsey, the German Ambassador has said.

His Excellency Dr Peter Ammon was visiting Guernsey to strengthen links with Germany.

The visit comes as island officials continue to fire-fight internationally, after Guernsey was blacklisted by the European Union as a non-cooperative jurisdiction, an issue discussed by the ambassador and chief minister Jonathan Le Tocq.

'Transparency and a willingness to cooperate is clearly visible here,' said Dr Ammon.

'I met with the Guernsey Financial Services Commission this morning and they had the same message.

'It's something I will report back home and to colleagues in Brussels'.

When asked if Guernsey should have been included on the EU blacklist, Dr Ammon responded: 'Germany is not one of the countries that has proposed that.'

During their time in Guernsey Dr Ammon and his wife Marliese Heilmann-Ammon paid a private visit to lay a remembrance wreath at the Fort George Military Cemetery as well as visiting Herm, the Priaux Library, the Candis Museum and Hauteville House.

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Dr Peter Ammon

'I've been overwhelmed by the hospitality we've received here, we hardly ever get such a warm welcome,' he said.

He said he had enjoyed his visit to Guernsey, describing his trip to Herm as like a 'trip to the



German Ambassador to the UK Dr Peter Ammon and his wife have been impressed by what the Bailiwick has to offer. (Picture by Tom Tardif, 9472556)

Caribbean'.

'Tourism has untapped potential here,' he said.

'I'm so enthusiastic about what I've seen here and I will be your ambassador for spreading that

news back home.'

Bailiff Sir Richard Collas yesterday hosted an event to re-affirm Guernsey's ties with Biberach that have been established through the Guernsey Friends of

Biberach organisation.

'The Biberach connection is a very important one for us,' said Sir Richard. 'We're delighted that the ambassador has taken a close interest in our Guernsey Biber-

ach link and I'm sure his encouragement will help us to ensure that our relationship goes from strength to strength and continues to develop and evolve for the benefit of both communities.'