**Voltaire Society weighs the balance between freedom and public health**

The Voltaire Society welcomed Chair of Lib Vannin, Michael Josem, for its first meeting of the school year. Mr Josem praised the responsible attitude and civic-mindedness of the island’s community during lockdown and called for a full public debate about how best to handle the challenges that lie ahead. In a wide-ranging session, topics covered included the UK and Manx governments’ handling of the pandemic, the pros and cons of border restrictions, the use of prison sentences for rule breakers and the role of a free press in times of national emergency.

The group also looked ahead to Christmas and whether or not border controls should be relaxed so that families can be reunited. In these most trying of times, there will be plenty more for the Voltaire Society to discuss in future meetings.

[](https://bhs.sch.im/site/uploads/pages/63/_media/20200925_77b76372/Josem_September_2020.jpg?m=1601021081)