



The Government of Sark

ONLINE IDENTITY (SPECIAL) COMMITTEE

A COMMITTEE OF THE CHIEF PLEAS OF SARK

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**** PRESS RELEASE ****

The Internet recognises Sark - at last!

After being ignored by the Internet since 1565 (!), Sark is now official on the internet. Or Sark's flag is, at least. It is included in the recent official Unicode 16.0 release of Emojis. This is an important step to confirming Sark's identity online in today's connected world. And in time, the Sark flag Emoji will be available alongside every other Emoji people can use.

'Having a good online profile in the global cybersphere is vital for a small community like Sark in areas such as tourism and making online purchases and deliveries easier', said Paul Armorgie, Speaker of Chief Pleas.

Emojis are allocated by the Unicode Consortium which, in turn, uses the ISO 3166-1 standard as reference. Sark was assigned an ISO 3166-1 code following work by the Chief Pleas Special Committee with the BSI and ISO.

Chief Pleas' Online Identity (Special) Committee welcomes the news that Sark's flag has been included as an official Emoji and will continue to work enhance Sark's online profile.

Thanks to the Unicode 16.0 release, Sark is waiting with bated breath to see its flag appearing in Google, Facebook, X, Android, iOS and so on as soon as the individual organisations roll out the updated Emojis in their systems

**** ENDS ****

Info for editors:

- The Grant of Arms for Sark's flag followed a petition by Christopher Beaumont, the current Seigneur, to Her Majesty and was the last Grant of Arms of her reign <https://www.college-of-arms.gov.uk/news-grants/newsletter/item/209-january-2023-newsletter-no-70>.
- The original design for the Sark flag was commissioned by the Dame of Sark, Sibyl Hathaway in 1938. Though widely used and recognised, it did not receive an official Royal Grant of Arms until the petition by the Seigneur, her great-grandson.