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**First Airtel-Vodafone Power Up Grant awarded to local athlete going for Gold.**

Commonwealth Games hopeful, Gemma Dawkins has been awarded the inaugural Airtel-Vodafone Power Up Grant worth £500.

Jersey Spartans track athlete Gemma, who is going for gold representing Jersey in the 800 metres at the up-coming Island Games in Gotland, said: 'I am totally focussed on representing Jersey at the Commonwealth Games in 2018, the cost of which is significant, therefore I'm very grateful to Airtel-Vodafone for recognising and supporting my ambition.'

Peter Zunino, head of sales and marketing at Airtel-Vodafone said: 'Despite receiving a number of worthy applicants, I was so impressed by Gemma's single minded approach and eloquent application. Her ambition shines through and I have no doubt she will make Jersey proud not only at the Island Games but also the Commonwealth Games. Airtel-Vodafone is delighted to be supporting such local sporting talent on both the national and international stage.'

Hugh Raymond, Chair of the Jersey Sports Council said: "It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the Jersey Sports Council to be part of an organisation that merits those deserving of support. We are very pleased and grateful to Airtel-Vodafone one of our new sponsors in providing a bursary to Gemma Dawkins who will not only be representing Jersey in the up coming Island Games but hopefully in the Commonwealth Games next Year.'

**ENDS**

**For more information contact Peter Zunino, 07700 734445**

**Notes for editors:**

**About the Jersey Sports Council**

The Jersey Sports Council is an independent voluntary group which works to promote the interests of sport in Jersey.

The work covers the encouragement of participation in sport, promotion of sport and the celebration of sports achievements (Jersey Sports Council Awards). The Council also

supports and hosts events that generally assist member sports with their development and lobbies relevant States of Jersey and other sport management bodies and service providers to get the “best deal” for sport.

Currently there are 42 member sports, and membership can be granted to governing bodies for sports in Jersey, or where a governing body does not exist, an individual sporting club.

The Sports Council has been in existence since 1972.

### **About Airtel-Vodafone**

Airtel-Vodafone is a partnership between two of the world’s leading telecoms companies that have come together to provide the Channel Islands best value network.

Airtel: one of the fastest-growing mobile companies in the world, operating in over 20 countries in Africa and Asia. Airtel is rated as the world’s 3<sup>rd</sup> largest mobile operator by subscribers

Vodafone Group: the largest mobile community in the world, operating in more than 60 countries with more than 400 million customers worldwide.

Airtel-Vodafone brings the combined expertise of these two world-class mobile phone companies to the Channel Islands, giving Islanders the opportunity to benefit from great value mobile communications backed up by a truly global network.