

PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

(64th Meeting)

18th May 2010PART A

All members were present, with the exception of Connétable J. Gallichan of St. Mary, Chairman, and Deputy M.R. Higgins, from whom apologies had been received.

Deputy C.H. Egré (acting Chairman)  
 Senator B.I. Le Marquand  
 Connétable P.F.M. Hanning of St. Saviour  
 Deputy J.B. Fox  
 Deputy J.A. Martin

In attendance -

M.N. de la Haye, Greffier of the States  
 Miss A-C. Heuston, Clerk to the Privileges and Procedures Committee

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A and Part B.

Minutes. A1. The Minutes of the meetings of 27th and 29th April 2010, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Media Working Party.  
1240/10(36) A2. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. A7 of 16th March 2010, received correspondence dated 4th May 2010 from the President of the Chairmen's Committee in connexion with the report of the Media Working Party.

The Committee recalled that it had forwarded the report of the Working Party to the Chairmen's Committee for consideration following its meeting on 16th March 2010, inviting comments in early course. The Chairmen's Committee had provided individual Panel comments and had advised that it would support the live audio-web-streaming of scrutiny hearings, but not of scrutiny meetings. The Committee noted the comments of the individual panels in respect of the report, however, considered that these were somewhat contradictory and it was not clear what the overall view of scrutiny was on the recommendations. The Committee was also disappointed to note that the Chairmen's Committee had not formed a consensus view in respect of the Working Party's recommendation to introduce a Code of Conduct which would permit the visual or audio recording of States meetings and hearings by accredited media organisations only, when a similar suggestion had originally been raised by the Chairmen's Committee in correspondence addressed to the Privileges and Procedures Committee dated 29th June 2009 (Minute No. A3 of the Committee's meeting of 3rd July 2009 refers).

It was accordingly **agreed** that the Vice Chairman would write to the President of the Chairmen's Committee to ask for a collective view in respect of the recommendation to introduce a Code of Conduct prior to the matter being considered any further by the Committee.

The Committee Clerk was requested to take the necessary action.

States Business  
Organisation  
Sub-Group.  
465/1(136)

A3. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. A5 of 26th January 2010, received the final report of the States Business Organisation Sub-Group.

The Committee noted the content of the report, including the research, submissions and conclusions contained therein, and discussed the findings with the Chairman of the Sub-Group, Deputy C.H. Egré. The group had been established in response to concerns regarding the volume of States business, the amount of time that States members needed to devote to it, and the impact this was having upon members' other responsibilities. Having spoken to, and received written submissions from, numerous States members, the Sub-Group had concluded that the problems could not be resolved through minor alterations to the running of States business. Instead, it had agreed that the rise in the number of questions and the length of States sittings, for example, were merely symptoms of a wider problem. It had accordingly agreed to recommend to the Privileges and Procedures Committee that the current system of government be reviewed.

Having discussed the findings, the Committee decided to present the report to the States to stimulate discussion. The Committee believed it was important for the Council of Ministers, the Chairmen's Committee and individual members to consider whether or not a review of the current system of government would be appropriate to overcome the issues that had been identified. Deputy J.B. Fox advised that he and Connétable J.M. Réfault of St. Peter had attended a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference in the Isle of Man and wished to discuss the Isle of Man system of government with the Committee as an example of how a more inclusive system could operate in a small jurisdiction. It was agreed that discussions in this respect could be held at a future meeting when the Committee would give full consideration to the Sub-Group's recommendations.

It was **agreed** that a foreword to the report should be drafted and circulated for approval. The Committee would then present the report of the States Business Organisation Sub-Group to the States in the 'R' series.

The Greffier of the States was requested to take the necessary action.

Information  
technology  
provision for  
States members.  
1240/9/1(137)  
871(11)

A4. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. A4 of 2nd March 2010, received correspondence from the Director of Information Services, Mr. N. Wells, dated 10th and 13th May 2010 in connexion with the provision of information technology for States members.

The Committee recalled that the Chairman had written to Mr. Wells on 4th March 2010 regarding the possible centralised provision of BlackBerries for all States members. Mr. Wells advised that monthly invoices for BlackBerries could be sent by the provider directly to each holder for settlement and charges which the holder wished to be reimbursed for could then be claimed back. Any recurring contract cost could be either charged centrally or included in the monthly invoice to each holder for the member to pay and reclaim. It was recommended that any central charge be bundled and recovered in the monthly invoice.

Mr. Wells also wished to seek the views of the Committee in respect of the provision of broadband for States members. It was noted that the Department paid for States members to have a 2 megabyte broadband connection to enable them to access the internet and connect to the States network from home. However, one States member used his own broadband connection, and another member had been provided upon

request with a more expensive provision which offered a fixed internet protocol address and faster broadband. Two outstanding requests had also been received from members by the Department to increase their broadband connection from 2 megabytes to 8 megabytes. The total annual cost for the provision of broadband to States members was £11,225.88 (consisting 50 connections at £17.99 per month, and one at £35.99). The Committee discussed the need for parity in the provision of information technology services and agreed to discuss the matter with Mr. Wells. The Committee also recalled that it also wished to look into the possible use by States members of Apple iPads (Minute Nos. A11 of 4th April and A2 of 9th February 2010 refer).

It was **agreed** that Mr. Wells should be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee in early course to discuss each of the aforementioned areas.

The Committee Clerk was requested to take the necessary action.

Matters for  
information.

A6. The Committee noted the following matters for information:

- (a) correspondence dated 1st May 2010 from Mr. B.R. Cooper in connexion with the review of the roles of Crown Officers. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. A8 of 27th April 2010, requested the Vice Chairman to write to Mr. Cooper to advise him that the content of the correspondence had been noted;
- (b) correspondence dated 15th April 2010 from Deputy P.J. Rondel, Chairman, Environment Panel, in connexion with the supply of bottled water to the States Building and Morier House, and a subsequent e-mail from Scrutiny Officer, Mr. M. Haden, asking the Committee to defer consideration of the item as the Panel wished to undertake a review of the issues in respect of bottled water supplies;
- (c) correspondence from the Chairman to Lord R. Carswell, Chairman, Review of the Roles of the Crown Officers, dated 4th May 2010 in response to Lord Carswell's letter of 19th April 2010 regarding the development of the States of Jersey Law 2005 (Minute No. A8 of the Committee's meeting of 27th April 2010 refers); and
- (d) Deputy J.B. Fox advised that an increasing number of cars were being parked in the Royal Square and it was **agreed** that the matter should be looked into.