

# Chairmen's Committee

## Record of Meeting

Date: 21st May 2013

Present	Deputy T.A Vallois, President Senator S.C. Ferguson Deputy K.L. Moore Connétable S. W. Pallett, representing Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel
Apologies	Deputy S.G. Luce, Vice-President Deputy J.H. Young
Absent	Deputy J.M. Maçon
In attendance	Mrs K. Tremellen-Frost, Scrutiny Manager

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p><b>1. Minutes of previous meetings</b></p> <p>The records of the meetings held on 23rd and 24th April and 13th May 2013 were approved and signed.</p>	
<p><b>18.12.12 Item 9</b></p> <p><b>465/1(182)</b></p>	<p><b>2. Machinery of Government: Sub-Committee of Privileges and Procedures Committee – recommendations in R.39/2013</b></p> <p>The Committee recalled that it had received correspondence dated 2nd May 2013 from the Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC) requesting that the Chairmen's Committee considered, in consultation with the Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee, the recommendations made in R.39/2013 from the Machinery of Government Review (MoGR) Sub-Committee.</p> <p>The Committee further recalled that the President, Chairmen's Committee had circulated correspondence to all Chairmen requesting feedback on the recommendations by 17th May so that the responses could be co-ordinated for consideration by the Committee at the meeting of this day.</p> <p>Given that there had been a large number of pressures on Members' time during this period some Members had been unable to reply. It was consequently agreed that Scrutiny Members would benefit from some additional time in order to provide considered responses and Members would be given to the end of the current week.</p> <p>The Committee considered in particular recommendation 7 which suggested that the Chairmen's Committee should be invited to consider the Electoral Commission's subsidiary recommendation on legislative scrutiny and report its views to PPC.</p> <p>The Committee noted that there were two proposals of the Electoral Commission in respect of legislative scrutiny: one of a second Chamber and the other of an additional Panel either of which would have specific responsibility for scrutiny of legislation.</p> <p>It was firmly agreed that the proposal of a possible second Chamber was</p>	

	<p>an unrealistic suggestion as was the establishment of a Panel to specifically consider legislation. Given the probability of reducing the numbers of States Members to 42 there would be insufficient Members available to fill positions on Scrutiny Panels, Public Accounts Committee and other States bodies let alone an additional area focussing on legislative Scrutiny. If it were the intention of the Electoral Commission to appoint independent people to either option, this would necessitate people with a proven legal background and in today's climate would inevitably require payment of a very high level, defeating the objective of cost-cutting exercises across the States and the reduction of the number of States Members.</p> <p>It was further agreed that improvements could be made amongst Scrutiny in the existing structure with regard to legislative Scrutiny but this was highly dependent on the processes followed by the Executive. Panels would benefit by the Executive having clearly defined timelines to which they adhered. Equally when referring draft legislation to Scrutiny, the draft policy on which it was based should be forwarded along with the law drafting instructions.</p> <p>A response to PPC would be drafted once Members had had the opportunity of responding to the recommendations.</p>	KTF
510/1(82)	<p><b>3. States of Guernsey Review Committee on Machinery of Government</b></p> <p>The Committee noted that the States of Guernsey Review Committee on the Machinery of Government would be attending the next meeting. That Committee was reviewing the existing structure within the Bailiwick of Guernsey and was considering the structure of other jurisdictions.</p> <p>The Committee considered the terms of reference of the Review Committee and agreed that it should be a useful discussion. In the absence of the Chairman, Environment Panel, the Committee was appraised of his views which he had forwarded via electronic mail.</p>	
	<p><b>4. Panel Activity Reports</b></p> <p>The Committee noted the Scrutiny Panels' Activity Reports. The Committee considered that the Activity Reports indicated that an encouraging amount of work had been, and was currently being undertaken.</p>	
512/1(1)	<p><b>5. Appointment of independent Member to Public Accounts Committee</b></p> <p>The Committee noted that the Public Accounts Committee had recently conducted interviews of its shortlisted candidates and had offered the position to one of the candidates which had been accepted. The appointment would be taken to the States Assembly as soon as was practically possible.</p>	
26.02.13 Item 12  510/1(47)	<p><b>6. Away-morning for Scrutiny</b></p> <p>The Committee recalled that it had previously decided to defer consideration of an away-event until after the referendum. In view of the outcome of the referendum it was agreed that an event of this nature would now be beneficial if only with a single item; to discuss how Scrutiny could function with 42 States Members.</p>	

	It was agreed that this should be considered at the all Scrutiny Member meeting scheduled for 5th June 2013.	
<b>510/1(70)</b>	<b>7. All Scrutiny Members meeting – items for discussion</b>  In view of the outcome of the referendum, the main matter for discussion was the way forward with the Scrutiny function with only 42 States Members. As this was a major item it was agreed that the meeting should consider the support for an away-event for Scrutiny Members to consider this one topic. (Item 6 of these minutes refer).	
<b>18.12.12 Item 6  510/1(3)</b>	<b>8. Questioning Training: Law Officer’s Department</b>  The Committee noted the arrangements for the above and agreed to encourage those Panel Members who had not yet replied to both/either the theory or practical invitations from the Scrutiny Manager to do so.	
<b>23.04.13 Item 16  510/3(5)</b>	<b>9. Newsletter</b>  The Committee noted the cost differential between printing off-Island and on-Island. It also noted that a stock sample was to be sent through to the Scrutiny Office for comparison with the existing stock and it was agreed to wait until this could be considered before making any further decisions.	
	<b>10. Future meetings</b>  11th June 2013 (Chairmen’s Committee meeting 9.30-10.30) 10.30-12.00 States of Guernsey Review Committee:  9th July 2013 – meeting 9.30am-11.30am (Comptroller and Auditor General to give a brief presentation 11.00am – 11.30am in respect of her office, her work and her plans for working closely with Scrutiny whilst retaining the necessary independence of her office.)	