

PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

(16th Meeting)

23rd August 2004

(Meeting conducted by telephone)

PART A

All members were present, with the exception of Deputy P.N. Troy and Deputy J.A. Bernstein, from whom apologies had been received.

Deputy R.G. Le Hérisier
 Senator P.V.F. Le Claire
 Connétable D.F. Gray
 Deputy C.J. Scott-Warren
 Deputy J-A. Bridge

In attendance -

Mrs. S. Stoten, Committee Clerk

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A only.

Freedom of
 information law
 drafting
 assistance.
 955(36)

A1. The Committee considered a request from the Vice President to obtain the services of a secondee on a full time basis as soon as possible in order to act as a law drafting instructing officer and to prepare a law drafting brief for the new Freedom of Information Law for which law drafting time had been set aside in 2004. The Committee recalled that the Freedom of Information Working Party had agreed to ask the States to agree 'in principle' that a Freedom of information Law should be pursued during the Autumn of 2004 and that the draft law drafting instructions would form part of the report supporting that proposition.

The Committee was apprised that it could take some time to identify an officer with suitable experience and availability and that the estimated costs would be £4,000 - £5,000 per month. The Committee agreed that the Freedom of Information Working Party would need to meet regularly during this period to ensure that the seconded officer received the necessary policy direction. The Committee noted that the task would include –

- (a) to establish/confirm policy guidelines through liaison with the Working Party on Freedom of Information which has been tasked to prepare a law drafting instructions;
- (b) to act as law drafting instructing officer for the preparation of a new Freedom of Information Law;
- (c) to prepare a draft report and proposition for 'in principle' approval by the States, the report to include the proposed law drafting instructions;
- (d) to maintain an overview during the law drafting process, providing clear guidance to and resolving matters raised by the Law Draftsman on policy matters, meeting with the Working Party or Committee as appropriate; and
- (e) to prepare the draft report to accompany the Draft Freedom of

Information Law.

It was estimated that, at the appropriate level, the main thrust of the work could be completed within a relatively short period, with an ongoing commitment until the draft Law was debated

The Committee approved the proposal to second an officer and directed the Deputy Greffier of the States to approach the States Human Resources Department to establish whether an appropriate officer was seeking a development opportunity of this nature. Alternatively, the Committee agreed that quotations should be sought from suitable persons to complete the task.

The Deputy Greffier of the States was requested to take the necessary action and update the Committee as and when a suitable officer had been identified.