

PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

(1st Meeting)

19th December 2005PART A

All members were present, with the exception of Deputy G.C.L. Baudains, from whom apologies had been received.

Connétable D.F. Gray - Chairman
 Senator S. Syvret
 Senator M.E. Vibert
 Connétable K.A. le Brun
 Deputy C.H. Egré
 Deputy J. Gallichan

In attendance -

M.N. de la Haye, Greffier of the States
 Mrs. A.H. Harris, Deputy Greffier of the States
 Miss P. Horton, Clerk to the Privileges and Procedures Commission.

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

Welcome.

A1. The Chairman welcomed the Committee members to the first meeting of the Privileges and Procedures Committee under the new form of Government.

Vice-Chairman.
465/1(68)

A2. The Committee agreed that Deputy C.H. Egré should be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Privileges and Procedures Committee.

Freedom of
Information
legislation - letter
from H.M.
Attorney General.
955(37)

A3. The Committee received and considered a letter from H.M. Attorney General, dated 12th December 2005, in connexion with the pending Freedom of Information legislation.

The Committee noted that the Attorney General had expressed concern at what was perceived as a lack of consultation regarding the draft legislation. However, the Committee recalled that the Attorney General had in fact attended meetings of the Privileges and Procedures Committee, as previously constituted, when the draft legislation had been discussed. The Committee agreed that the Attorney General would be consulted further regarding the draft legislation and agreed that the Chairman should respond to the letter.

Future work
programme.
465/1(69)

A4. The Committee discussed the work programme it would follow in the coming months.

The Committee agreed that Senator S. Syvret should deal with the Freedom of Information legislation and further agreed that it would no longer be necessary for Mr. P.G.H. Baker to act as Instructing Officer for the matter. It was noted that a first draft of the Freedom of Information legislation would be made available to the Committee shortly. The Chairman, together with Deputy J. Gallichan, would assume responsibility for Electoral Reform. The Committee noted that law drafting time

would be required in respect of the aforementioned. The Committee further agreed that it would like to investigate postal voting and limiting the amount of money a candidate could spend on an election campaign.

The Committee considered the procedure for the election of Chief Minister, Ministers and Scrutiny Chairmen and, in particular, discussed whether the elections for Ministers and Scrutiny Chairmen should be held over several days rather than all on the same day. This would allow Members time to consider whether they would wish to be nominated for a Scrutiny Chairmanship if they were unsuccessful in the Ministerial elections. The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to seek the views of all States Members by means of a questionnaire in connexion with the above.

The Committee also discussed the States Members Remuneration Review Body and expressed concern that the body was unable to investigate such issues as the establishment of a pension fund for States Members and also severance pay for those members not re-elected. It was agreed that this was a matter which should be included in the work programme.

On a related matter, the Committee requested that a leaflet be produced outlining the proper complaints procedure for complaints against States members to ensure that the procedure was clear to members of the public.

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

Privileges and
Procedures
Committee -
future meeting
dates.
465/1(70)

A5. The Committee agreed the following schedule of dates for its meetings throughout 2006. It was noted that the Committee would meet monthly at 9.30 a.m. on a Wednesday in the Le Capelain Room, States Building.

11th January
8th February
8th March
5th April
3rd May
31st May
28th June
26th July
23rd August
20th September
18th October
15th November
13th December.