

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

(3rd Meeting)

7th April 2009

(Business conducted by electronic mail)

PART A

All members were present.

Senator B.E. Shenton, Chairman
Senator A. Breckon
Connétable J.M. Refault of St. Peter
Connétable A.S. Crowcroft of St. Helier
Deputy T.A. Vallois
Mr. A.C. Fearn
Mr. P. Ryan
Mr. K. Keen
Mr. M. Magee

In attendance -

Mr. C. Swinson, O.B.E., Comptroller and Auditor General
Miss A-C. Heuston, Clerk to the Public Accounts Committee

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

Expansion of the
remit of the
Comptroller and
Auditor General.
FILE

A1. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. A6(d) of 16th February 2009, considered the report of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel entitled: 'Waterfront Enterprise Board (P.12/2009)', presented to the States on 18th March 2009 (SR1/2009 refers).

The Committee noted that the report contained a recommendation under paragraph 4.27 that the remit of the Comptroller & Auditor General (C&AG) should be expanded in relation to the Waterfront Enterprise Board (WEB).

The Committee considered whether to lodge a draft report and proposition asking the States to decide whether they were of the opinion: 'To request the Minister for Treasury and Resources to bring forward for approval amendments to the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2005 to expand the remit of the C&AG in relation to companies that are wholly or majority-owned by the States of Jersey to enable him to exercise similar functions in relation to these entities as those he exercises in relation to States funded bodies'.

Mr. M. Magee and Mr. K. Keen notified the Committee of a conflict of interest and declined to vote on the matter.

The Committee noted that the proposition as drafted would expand the C&AG's remit in relation to publicly quoted companies. The Committee considered that an alternative solution would be to distinguish States owned companies whose shares were publicly listed and to apply the extension of powers to all others.

The Committee agreed that the proposition should be amended so that the C&AG's powers would not be extended in relation to listed companies.

The Committee received a revised draft report and proposition asking the States to request the Minister for Treasury and Resources to bring forward for approval amendments to the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2005, as set out in the previous draft proposition, but with the exception of publicly quoted companies.

The Committee approved the revised report and proposition, and requested that it be lodged 'au Greffe' at the earliest opportunity.

The Committee Clerk was requested to take the necessary action.