WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE BY DEPUTY T.M. PITMAN OF ST. HELIER ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 11th MAY 2010

Question

"Given growing public concern about various aspects of States efficiency -will the Chairman advise what measures, if any, the Committee has at its disposal to monitor and ensure that those members also having second jobs/careers give adequate commitment to carrying out their public duties?

Further still, what sanctions, if any, can be put in place to prevent members simply leaving the Assembly after roll call to go to their second place of work?"

Answer

States members are prevented by the States of Jersey Law 2005 from working as public employees. Other than in this regard, there is nothing in the States of Jersey Law 2005, Standing Orders or the Code of Conduct for Elected Members to say that members should not have outside employment or careers, paid or otherwise, nor indeed any other commitment. The Committee therefore has no remit to specifically monitor this, or to quantify or validate the commitment given by any member to carrying out his or her public duties. This is a matter for individual members' conscience and for the electorate.

The Committee has from time to time discussed attendance during States sittings in general terms, but nothing specific in relation to the outside employment of any member. There may be many valid reasons why members need to leave the States Assembly or indeed the States Building during a sitting, but to date this has not resulted in any complaint under the Code of Conduct being made to the Committee. Should such a complaint be brought then PPC would be required to investigate it in accordance with Standing Orders.