

Chairmen's Committee

Record of Meeting

Date: 15th October 2013

Present	Deputy T.A. Vallois, President Deputy S.G. Luce, Vice-President Senator S.C. Ferguson Deputy K.L. Moore Deputy J.H. Young
Apologies	Deputy J.M. Maçon
Absent	
In attendance	Mr. W. Millow, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
17.09.13 Item 3 465/1(4)	1. Privileges and Procedures Representative The Committee agreed that an update from the Privileges and Procedures Committee would be made a regular item on future agendas.	WM
17.09.13 Item 2 516/1(1)	2. Chairmanship of Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel The Committee recalled that the Chairman of the Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel had previously indicated that, notwithstanding his appointment as Chairman of the Privileges and Procedures Committee, he would continue as Chairman of the Education and Home Affairs Panel until the review into CCTV had been completed. It was agreed to seek clarification from the Chairman of the Education and Home Affairs Panel as to when the review was likely to be completed.	WM
	3. Minutes of previous meetings The records of the meetings held on 17th and 25th September 2013 were approved and signed accordingly.	
09.07.13 Item 8 1443(1)	4. Comptroller and Auditor General The Committee was advised that the President would discuss with Senator I.J. Gorst, Chief Minister, proposed legislative changes arising from <i>Public Audit in Jersey</i> (R.77/2013) when the President and the Chief Minister met that afternoon.	TV
	5. Quarterly Finance Reports The Committee, having discussed matters in respect of the legislation programme and <i>Draft Budget Statement 2014</i> (P.122/2013) and noting that copies of Quarterly Corporate Reports were provided to the Public Accounts Committee and the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel, agreed that it would be beneficial for copies of such reports should be provided for the attention of all Panels. It was agreed that the President would raise the matter with the Chief Minister.	TV
	6. Ministerial Decisions The Committee agreed that the President would raise with the Chief Minister the question of whether the presentation of Ministerial Decisions	TV

	on www.gov.je could be altered in order to make it easier to search them by reference number.	
	<p>7. Panel Activity Reports</p> <p>The Committee noted the Scrutiny Panels' Activity Reports. During its deliberations, particular consideration was given to the Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panels' review in respect of long-term care proposals.</p>	
	<p>8. Witnesses Attending on Panels</p> <p>The Committee, following a request from the Vice-President, considered the principle of the remuneration of witnesses at public hearings. It was noted that Paragraph 10.5 of the <i>Code of Practice for Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee</i> stated that Scrutiny Panels would not, in principle, remunerate witnesses for travel expenses or for loss of earnings due to attendance at oral hearings but that Panels could, however, consider at their discretion reasonable claims for expenses. It was further noted that, during a review undertaken by the Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel, one third of the travel expenses for a visiting speaker had been paid by the Panel as the speaker had also appeared before the Panel as a witness at a public hearing.</p> <p>The Committee, noting that there was a general presumption against the payment of witnesses, agreed that Chairmen and Panels would, before agreeing the payment of expenses in such circumstances, consider whether evidence could be obtained from the witness in question by another means such as a written submission. It was further agreed that for future instances in which a Panel considered that payment of expenses for a witness was required, explicit provision for such a payment would be included in the relevant Scoping Document and thereby placed before the Committee for consideration.</p>	WM
	<p>9. Financial Report</p> <p>The Committee noted the financial report on Scrutiny expenditure for the third quarter of 2013.</p>	
	<p>10. Future meetings</p> <p>The Committee noted that it would next meet at 9:30am on 12th November 2013.</p>	
09.07.13 Item 3 510/1(77)	<p>11. Ministerial Information Prior to Debates in States Assembly</p> <p>The Committee, noting that the Ministerial Response to <i>Review of the Draft Amendments to the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2005</i> (SR10/2013) had been presented to the States four weeks after the debate on the Draft Amendments, agreed that the President would discuss with the Chief Minister the timescales for material to be made available by Ministers prior to debates.</p>	TV