

STATES OF JERSEY



BUDGET 2005: EIGHTH AMENDMENTS (P.220/2004) – COMMENTS

**Presented to the States on 7th December 2004
by the Finance and Economics Committee**

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The Finance and Economics Committee has been told by the Public, at every opportunity, to control the growth in States expenditure experienced in recent years.

Accordingly, the Committee has proposed tight spending targets which the States has rightly approved as recently as 3 months ago in agreeing the Resource Plan 2005– 2009. A consequence of tight spending targets is that expenditure proposals must be rigorously prioritised against one another and unfortunately, but inevitably, some plans must be postponed until such a time as they are regarded as just such a priority.

Expenditure proposals for the Agri-Environment Scheme, within the tight spending limits demanded by the Public, have not been seen as a priority by the States.

However, Senator Shenton now wishes to break those spending limits by increasing expenditure which the States have previously not shown to be a priority irrespective of whether there may be more pressing needs. Members would be acting irresponsibly in agreeing to such a move.

The Committee cannot support this amendment.