

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT STATES OF JERSEY LAW 200- (P.124/2004): AMENDMENTS (P.124/2004 AMD.)– COMMENTS

**Presented to the States on 9th November 2004
by the Privileges and Procedures Committee**

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

If adopted this amendment would provide that the future Public Accounts Committee (PAC) would be composed of an elected member of the States as Chairman together with a number of other members, half of whom would be States members and half of whom would not be States members.

In the draft Law as lodged the Privileges and Procedures Committee has reflected the existing decision of the States on the future composition of the PAC, namely that it should be composed exclusively of States members with a States member as Chairman and the Chairmen of the Scrutiny Panels sitting as *ex officio* members alongside at least 2 other States members.

The Committee has discussed the proposed amendment with Deputy Ferguson, Shadow Chairman of the Shadow PAC, and Mr. Tim Dunningham, Chairman. The Committee accepts Deputy Ferguson's view that the non-States members on the Shadow PAC play a very valuable part in the work of the PAC and bring a range of skills and expertise that might not be readily available if the Committee was composed exclusively of States members.

The Committee has some concerns about the inclusion of non-elected people in the work of this Committee which may be making far-reaching recommendations about the administration of public finances but has concluded that the benefit that such members of the PAC can bring outweighs these concerns. The Committee has nevertheless informed Deputy Ferguson that, if the amendment is adopted by the States, it believes that 2 conditions should be imposed, namely (i) that the members who are not States members should not have the ability to vote, and (ii) that they should swear an oath of confidentiality before taking up their positions. Deputy Ferguson has indicated that these conditions would be acceptable and the Committee will take the necessary steps to implement these conditions if the amendment is adopted by the States.