WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIRMAN OF PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE BY DEPUTY T.M. PITMAN OF ST. HELIER ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 5th MARCH 2013

Question

Given that the Electoral Commission stated in its final Report that if Option B was ever implemented the consequence would be greater inequality of representation for urban parishes, will the Committee be ensuring that this reality is made clear to all Islanders within information accompanying the referendum publicity?

Answer

The Committee has commissioned a voter registration campaign to encourage eligible voters to register (the closing date for registration being 3rd April) and, importantly, to use their vote on 24th April. As part of that campaign, the Committee will draw attention to the Electoral Commission's final report. The Committee will also endeavour to highlight the existence of formal campaign groups.

PPC does not intend to publish its collective view on the relative advantages and disadvantages of options A, B and C. It expects instead that public debate on the referendum question and the Commission's final report will be fuelled by the establishment of formal campaign groups, which may choose to engage with the public on the question of equality of representation.