MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT: FREEDOM OF REPRESENTATION (P.173/2002) - COMMENTS

Presented to the States on 8th October 2002 by the Privileges and Procedures Committee



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Comments

The Committee has suggested to the Policy and Resources Committee that the doctrine of collective responsibility is not a matter which ought to be prescribed now and, in any event, it is not something which needs to be determined by a parliamentary body. Likewise, the Committee believes that the Code of Conduct for Ministers, as set out in the appendix entitled 'Guidance and Procedures for Ministers' to the Report of the Policy and Resources Committee (P.171/2002), should not be debated by the States. The Code for Ministers was not binding in the same sense as the Code of Conduct for Members or Standing Orders of the States of Jersey. The language in the Code of Conduct for Ministers should be advisory rather than mandatory. It should be a matter for the Council to consider and adopt for itself once it has taken office.

The Committee considers the Report and Proposition of Senator Syvret in the same light. It suggests that the States should not seek to bind the Council of Ministers at this stage.