

STATES OF JERSEY



COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY: CONFIDENTIAL FILES HELD BY STATES OF JERSEY POLICE ON STATES MEMBERS AND OTHERS (P.104/2009) – AMENDMENT

Lodged au Greffe on 20th October 2009
by Deputy J.B. Fox of St. Helier

STATES GREFFE

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AMENDMENT

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- (a) in paragraph (c) for the words “legally qualified ex-Judge or Queen’s Council from outside the Island”, substitute the words “respected local person such as a retired Jurat, Lawyer, Civil Servant or similar”;

- (b) in paragraph (d), for the words “from outside of the Island” substitute the words “from inside of the Island”.

DEPUTY J.B. FOX OF ST. HELIER

REPORT

In my mail today, I received the comments on P.104/2009, presented to the States on 16th October 2009 by the Minister for Treasury and Resources. The comments contained Assumptions of the total cost for a Committee of Inquiry chaired by a legally qualified ex-judge or Queen's Counsel from outside the Island at a total cost of £219,500; £138,000 of which is for the Chairman's cost from outside the Island and his subsistence and accommodation.

The Minister for Treasury and Resources in his comments proposes that if the States approve this Proposition, that due to financial constraints facing the States, he has no alternative but to request the Home Affairs to meet any cost of a Committee of Inquiry from within their existing budget.

Further, the Treasury and Resources Minister recognises that the Minister of Home Affairs has extended the Wiltshire Constabulary Investigation to include the reasons surrounding the States of Jersey Police holding confidential files on States members, believes that the Committee of Inquiry is an unnecessary expenditure and recommends that members reject this Proposition.

If the States are minded not to accept the Minister's recommendation, but are uncomfortable about the Assumptions costs as proposed by the Minister, that if a local Chairman was appointed this would reduce the cost to £81,500 and provide in my opinion the sufficient safeguards that is contained within the original Proposition, bearing in mind the extended investigation by the Wiltshire Constabulary.

Financial and manpower implications

There are no manpower or financial implications other than if the Amendment is approved, there are potential savings of £138,000.

I submit this Amendment for consideration.