

# Chairmen's Committee

## Record of Meeting Part A

Date: 25.06.09  
Meeting No: 18

Present	Senator B. E. Shenton, President Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier, Vice-President (item 4 onwards) Senator A. Breckon Senator S.C. Ferguson Deputy M.R. Higgins (item 15 only) Connétable J. Refault (representing Environment Scrutiny Panel)
Apologies	Deputy P.J. Rondel
Absent	
In attendance	Mrs K. Tremellen-Frost, Scrutiny Manager

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p><b>1. Minutes of previous meetings</b></p> <p>The minutes of 21st and 26th May 2009 were approved and accordingly signed.</p>	
<p><b>21.05.09</b> <b>items 3 &amp; 22</b> <b>510/3(2)</b></p>	<p><b>2. Citizenship programme</b></p> <p>The Committee noted that it had been unfortunate that the event at Haute Vallée and Les Quennevais had not been able to take place with the attendance of States Members due to the prolonged Strategic Plan debate. However, it had taken place with Hautlieu and JCG, both of which had been very successful. Grainville was the afternoon of this day and Le Rocquier on 10th July.</p>	
<p><b>21.05.09</b> <b>item 9</b> <b>465/1</b> <b>(129)</b></p>	<p><b>3. Scrutiny Rooms : use of by Court Services</b></p> <p>The Committee noted that the Greffier of the States had reviewed the use of the Blampied Room by the Court Services which had been granted by the previous Privileges and Procedures Committee. Experience had shown that the level of media interest in the trials had been less than anticipated and the room had only been needed on 15th June and would be needed again on 10th and 11th August.</p>	
<p><b>515/16(8)</b></p>	<p><b>4. Panel activity reports</b></p> <p>The Committee noted these and the following additional items:-</p> <p><b>Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel:</b> would be scrutinising the Annual Business Planning process and subsequently the States of Jersey whistle blowing and complaints procedures. The Panel was also concerned about the Depositor Protection Scheme and the liability of the States.</p> <p><b>Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel:</b> Concern was expressed</p>	

	<p>regarding the approach of the Minister for Economic Development expecting scrutiny to put a hold on a review in order to review Depositor Compensation so that it could be debated by 14th July.</p> <p><b>Education/Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel:</b> There had been a budget increase of £3,500 for the review into the Prison Board of Visitors in order to take independent legal advice from the UK.</p> <p><b>Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel:</b> the Income Support and Vulnerable Children reviews were behind schedule but were both nearing completion. Reviews into advocacy and dental health services were planned and there was also the Annual Business Plan and a Housing matter to review before the end of the year.</p>	
514/10(8)	<p><b>5. Environment Scrutiny Panel: Review into States energy efficiency: scoping document and Terms of reference.</b></p> <p>The Committee noted the above documentation in respect of a review into States' energy efficiency by the Environment Scrutiny Panel.</p>	
	<p><b>6. Report circulation: avoiding clashes of timings.</b></p> <p>A number of reports were due for presentation at about the same time. Effort would be made to stagger the releases so that each had media coverage, but this was ultimately down to Panels' decisions. A press conference for the release of the Vulnerable Children report was considered.</p>	KTF
513/16(8)	<p><b>7. Review evaluation: Waterfront Enterprise Board</b></p> <p>The evaluation of the Waterfront Enterprise Board (P.12/2009) was noted.</p>	
	<p><b>8. Member resignation</b></p> <p>The Committee noted that Deputy G.P. Southern had resigned from the Corporate Services Scrutiny Sub-Panel into Migration and Population. The Sub-Panel had not yet appointed a Vice-Chairman but would do so in the near future. Another Member would be welcomed to fill the space vacated by Deputy Southern.</p>	
21.05.09 item 23	<p><b>9. Staffing</b></p> <p>The Committee was apprised that a new full-time post for the rôle of Officer to the Public Accounts Committee was to be created. The rôle was currently undertaken by a Committee Clerk as previously it required the taking of minutes with no other responsibilities. Since the start of this year the Public Accounts Committee had worked more akin to the Scrutiny Panels and the supporting officer had a vastly increased workload and differing responsibilities. The new officer would be located within the scrutiny section of the States Greffe.</p> <p>Consideration was given to utilising "external" people to support the work of scrutiny. This matter would be referred to the Greffier of the States who ultimately held responsibility of staff supporting the scrutiny function and a meeting would be held to consider matters in respect of this.</p>	KTF/GoS
	<p><b>10. Six-month overview of scrutiny work</b></p>	

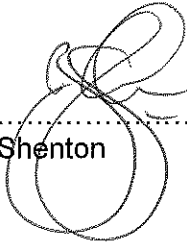
	<p>The Committee noted a six-month report in respect of an overview of Panel's work which included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviews relating to Terms of Reference as in Standing Order 136;</li> <li>• Reviews per department;</li> <li>• Status of review work;</li> <li>• Work other than reviews.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>21.05.09</b> <b>item 2</b>  <b>510/3 (5)</b></p>	<p><b>11. Newsletter</b></p> <p>The Committee considered feedback received in respect of the Scrutiny Matters newsletter. It noted that the vast majority were positive and consequently agreed that an autumn edition should be produced. It also agreed, that at that time, sufficient work would be underway to be able to focus on specific reviews in more detail and consideration was given to extending the newsletter from eight to twelve pages.</p> <p>It was agreed to circulate one feedback letter received to all States Members as requested by the sender.</p>	<b>KTF</b>
<p><b>21.05.09</b> <b>item 11</b>  <b>510/1(41)</b></p>	<p><b>12. Ministerial Decisions</b></p> <p>The Committee noted receipt of a letter dated 16th June 2009 from the Chief Minister in respect of Ministerial Decisions, along with other matters.</p> <p>It was noted that the Scrutiny Officers had not experienced any difficulties in accessing Ministerial Decisions and they could now be accessed numerically per department on the gov.je website.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that more effort should be made to put Ministerial Decisions into the public domain and agreed to request the Greffier of the States who was responsible for this and communicate the fact to them.</p>	<b>KTF</b>
<p><b>21.05.09</b> <b>item 13</b>  <b>510/1(41)</b></p>	<p><b>13. Confidentiality of Part B Council of Ministers background reports</b></p> <p>The Committee noted receipt of a letter dated 16th June 2009 from the Chief Minister in respect of access to the Council of Ministers' background reports, along with other matters.</p> <p>It was noted that the Council of Ministers had still to discuss the issue of reclassifying Part B papers when an item had been transferred to the 'A' minute which was due to be discussed by the Council shortly.</p> <p>It was agreed that Panels should be robust when requesting Council of Ministers' Part B papers when the item had been minuted as a Part A.</p>	
<p><b>21.05.09</b> <b>item10</b></p>	<p><b>14. Joint Chairmen's Committee and Council of Ministers' meeting</b></p> <p>There were no matters which the Committee wished to raise with the Council of Ministers at the next scheduled joint meeting of 23rd July. The value of the meetings themselves was questioned however. Any items for the agenda should be forwarded to the Scrutiny Manager by the end of the forthcoming week.</p>	<b>KTF</b>

<p><b>21.05.09 item 16</b></p> <p><b>510/1(42)</b></p>	<p><b>15. Public footage of scrutiny meetings and hearings/protocols</b></p> <p>The Committee noted receipt of a letter dated 16th June 2009 from the Chief Minister expressing support of a report and proposition not to allow the taking of audio or visual footage at scrutiny hearings.</p> <p>The Committee recalled that, due to Standing Order 143(f)(iii) and (iv) it was incumbent on the Committee to update its Code of Practice in respect of scrutiny hearings.</p> <p>Consideration was given to the purpose behind hearings, which was to gain information about a specific subject. Anything which might cause a witness not to impart information should be avoided.</p> <p>The draft report and proposition was approved for lodging "au Greffe" and it was agreed that it would be sent to the Privileges and Procedures Committee, advising that Committee that the report and proposition only dealt with scrutiny issues and that there were wider issues outside the scrutiny area which needed to be dealt with by the Privileges and Procedures Committee. It was agreed to advise that Committee that members of the public had observed the open part of the Chairmen's Committee meeting and expressed the view that the this matter should be debated in a wider forum. The Committee agreed that it would suggest to the Privileges and Procedures Committee that that Committee met the Chairmen's Committee and invited all media and interested parties to that meeting.</p> <p>Dissent from the decision to lodge the report and proposition was recorded by Deputies Le Hérissier and Higgins.</p>	<p><b>KTF/BS/ States Greffe</b></p>
<p><b>21.05.09 item 18</b></p> <p><b>447/1/1/4 (1)</b></p>	<p><b>16. Annual Business Plan</b></p> <p>The Committee noted that the Comptroller and Auditor General would be giving a brief presentation to scrutiny members on Tuesday 30th June 2009. The purpose of the briefing was to give members advice as to how best to approach scrutiny of the Annual Business Plan.</p> <p>Regarding the possibility of asking the States to defer debate of the Annual Business Plan, it was agreed to send a letter to the Chief Minister to advise him that the Committee was minded to do this and to ask if there were any legal reasons why the debate could not be deferred.</p> <p>A response by return would be requested as the matter required prompt action.</p>	<p><b>KTF</b></p>
<p><b>21.05.09 item 20</b></p> <p><b>510/1(3)</b></p>	<p><b>17. Chairing skills</b></p> <p>It was agreed to proceed with the chairing training by INLOGOV, University of Birmingham with a proposed date of 1st October and reserve date of 2nd October. This would be open to all Scrutiny Members.</p>	<p><b>KTF</b></p>
	<p><b>18. Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>The next Chairmen's Committee meeting would be on 23rd July 2009 and there was a joint meeting with the Council of Ministers scheduled for that day at 2.00pm.</p>	

Signed

Date:

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Senator B. Shenton  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned over a dotted line.

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2009

