

Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Record of Meeting

18th January 2017

Present	Deputy S.M. Brée, Chairman Deputy D. Johnson, Vice-Chairman Connétable J.E. Le Maistre Connétable M.J. Paddock
Apologies	
Absent	
In attendance	Mr M. Orbell, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Innovation Fund</p> <p>The Panel met to discuss comments made by the Chief Minister during the debate on the Innovation Fund on 17th January, in which he suggested to States Members that the Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel would be carrying out a review of the matter. As this had not previously been considered by the Panel, the Chairman called a meeting to discuss the issue. Members agreed that such a review would not fit into the normal role of Scrutiny, and could thus raise questions about objectivity. There was potential for damage to the reputation not just of the Panel, but also of the wider Scrutiny function if a review were to be carried out that exceeded Scrutiny's terms of reference under Standing Orders. In particular it was noted that Scrutiny was generally accepted to be forward-looking and focused on matters of ministerial policy; it was the task of the PAC to look with hindsight into issues of departmental performance and value for money.</p> <p>The Chief Minister had already announced that three independent reviews were being commissioned into different aspects of this matter. It was also understood that the PAC would be following up the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General with a further review of its own into the operation of the Innovation Fund. As such, members felt that a further Scrutiny review would not be appropriate or justified. It was agreed that a letter should be drafted to the Chief Minister explaining that the Panel would not be carrying out a review.</p>	<p>MO</p>