WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIRMAN OF PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE BY DEPUTY R.G. LE HÉRISSIER OF ST. SAVIOUR ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 7th JUNE 2011

Question

Does the Committee intend resubmitting its proposition entitled 'Media Relations - Code of Conduct' (P.100/2010) and, if so, what reasons, if any, exist for the delay in bringing this matter forward for debate?

Answer

The Privileges and Procedures Committee's (PPC) proposition entitled 'Media Relations – Code of Conduct' (P.100/2010) asked the States to adopt a Code of Conduct for members of the public and the media when in the States Building.

The Code had been drafted by the Media Working Party and was proposed, unamended, by PPC on 15th July 2010. Following an approach from the Deputy of St. Martin, PPC agreed to withdraw the proposition to enable further research to be carried out. Following various amendments to the draft Code, it was agreed that a further meeting should be held with representatives of the Chairmen's Committee to discuss the current position in respect of the filming by members of the public and the media of scrutiny meetings and hearings. PPC was of the view that a Code should only be introduced if the current position, whereby members of the media and the public were required to adhere to various protocols, was untenable.

Representatives from PPC attended a Chairmen's Committee meeting on 12th May 2011 to discuss the draft Code. It was agreed that the current situation could be managed in the short term and the Committee does not, therefore, intend to propose the introduction of a Code of Conduct in respect of media relations at the present time.