

Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

PUBLIC MEETING

Record of Meeting

Date: **16th December 2009**

Meeting Number: **33**

Present	Deputy R. G. Le Hérissier, Chairman Deputy M. Tadier Deputy T. M. Pitman
Apologies	Connétable G. F. Butcher
Absent	
In attendance	Mrs. E. Liddiard, Scrutiny Officer Miss. S. Power, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Records of Meetings</p> <p>The record of the meeting of 13th November 2009 was approved and signed.</p>	
	<p>2. Matters Arising</p> <p>The Panel noted the status of action updates from the previous meeting on the 13th November 2009. The Panel further noted briefing notes of the Chairmen's Committee meeting of 12th November 2009.</p>	
<p>Item 3 13.11.09 516/19(8)</p>	<p>3. Schools Suspension Review</p> <p>The Sub-Panel Chairman provided an update on the status of arrangements for visits to D'Hautree House School and St James School. He informed the Panel that the Sub-Panel is awaiting a response from the Minister to the Sub-Panel's request to undertake these visits.</p> <p>It was also confirmed that the Sub-Panel was waiting to receive a response from the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture with regards to the Sub-Panel's request to contact teachers directly to invite them to attend Hearings for this review, without having to inform the Education Department. The Panel requested the Officer to follow up on this letter.</p> <p>The Panel further noted that at its previous meeting it had requested the Scrutiny Manager to place an item on the Chairmen's Committee agenda regarding a potential amendment to the Code of Practice to allow States employees to contact Scrutiny Panels independently, without having to go through their Chief Officer. It was requested for the Officer to establish what progress had been made on this.</p>	<p>SP</p> <p>SP</p>
<p>Item 4 13.11.09 516/22(8)</p>	<p>4. Higher Education Fees Review</p> <p>The Panel noted that both they and the Sub-Panel were due to meet with the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture on Friday 18th</p>	

	December to receive a briefing on the current status of the Department's review of Higher Education Fees. The Chairman of the Sub-Panel suggested that the members remain after the meeting to discuss the briefing and the best way forward for the review.	
Item 9 13.11.09 516/1(44)	<p>5. 2010 Annual Work Programme</p> <p>The Panel requested the Officers to contact the Home Affairs Department to request access to green papers or any policy papers on the implementation of the Anti-Discrimination and the Vetting and Barring Legislation. It was agreed that access to these documents, or a confidential copy of draft legislation, would enable the Panel to consider these issues at the earliest opportunity, rather than having to wait until the propositions were lodged with the States for debate.</p> <p>The Panel approved its work programme and requested for it to be sent to both the Minister for Home Affairs and the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture, as required by the Code of Practice for Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee.</p>	<p>SP/EL</p> <p>SP/EL</p>
	<p>6. Meeting Dates 2010</p> <p>The Panel approved its meeting schedule for 2010.</p>	
	<p>7. Paperwork</p> <p>The Panel discussed ways to improve efficiency during the review process and agreed to trial a paperless process for the Higher Education Fees Review.</p>	
	<p>8. Budget Update</p> <p>The Panel noted an update on Panel expenditure as of 8th December 2009.</p>	
	<p>9. Legal Highs</p> <p>The Panel discussed correspondence from a member of the public with regards to changes in Legislation concerning 'legal' highs. The Panel suggested that the Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel should take the lead with this topic. The Panel requested the Officers inform the member of the public of its suggested course of action. The Panel further requested this letter to be copied to the Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel as well as to the Minister for Health and Social Services.</p>	SP/EL
	<p>10. Forthcoming Propositions</p> <p>The Panel noted forthcoming propositions lodged au Greffe pertinent to its remit. The Panel requested a Comment to be lodged in relation to the Strategy for Dealing with Young Offenders: Establishment of Working Group (P201/2009), recording the Panel's support of this proposition and highlighting the necessity for the working group to have a broad make up.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to accept P.188/2009/Amd with regards to Fort Regent: establishment of a working group (P.188/2009).</p>	<p>SP/EL</p> <p>SP/EL</p>
	<p>11. Ministerial Decisions</p> <p>The Panel noted receipt of recent Ministerial Decisions pertinent to its remit.</p>	

	The Panel requested Officers to contact the Department for Home Affairs for a Schedule of Immigration Fees (MD-HA-2009-0101). The Panel further requested that discussion about the decision to allocate funding for a vehicle for use as a Youth Service mobile centre should be added to the agenda for the next bi-annual meeting with the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture.	SP/EL
	12. Questions to Ministers The Panel noted that the Minister for Social Security and the Minister for Planning and Environment would take questions without notice at the States sitting of the 19 th January 2010, and that the Minister for Housing and the Chief Minister would take questions without notice at the States sitting of 2 nd February 2010.	
	13. Future Meetings The Panel noted that its next meeting was scheduled for the 13 th January 2010. However, it was agreed that as a result of the Christmas break it may not be necessary to hold this meeting, and that this would be confirmed with Panel members closer to the time. It was further noted that at its Meeting on the 10 th February 2010 at 9.30am, Blampied Room, the Panel would be inviting the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture and the Minister for Home Affairs to attend bi-annual Public Meetings.	
516/17(8)	15. Any Other Business Prison Board of Visitors The Panel noted receipt of a Ministerial response from the Minister for Home Affairs for the Prison Board of Visitors Report. The Panel discussed its content and agreed for a response to be drafted. The Panel further noted the review evaluation form and approved it to be forwarded to the Chairmen's Committee.	MT/ RleH SP

Signed

Date:



10/2/10

Chairman
Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel