

PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

(16th Meeting)

22nd August 2003PART A

All members were present, with the exception of Deputy C.J. Scott-Warren and Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier, from whom apologies had been received.

Senator C.G.P. Lakeman  
 Connétable D.F. Gray  
 Deputy F.J. Hill, B.E.M.  
 Deputy J-A. Bridge  
 Deputy J.A. Bernstein

In attendance -

M.N. de la Haye, Greffier of the States  
 Mrs. A.H. Harris, Deputy Greffier of the States  
 Mrs J. Marshall, Senior Executive Officer  
 Miss F. Agnès, Executive Officer  
 M.P. Haden, Committee Clerk.

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A only.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Minutes   | A1. The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2003, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed   |
| Matters arising   | A2. The Committee noted the following matters arising from its meeting held on 11th July 2003 -   |
|   | <b>Act A4(a) - Remuneration</b> - The Committee noted an explanation received from the Comptroller of Income Tax regarding his treatment of States members' allowances for income tax purposes. The Committee, however, felt that the Comptroller had not addressed the main issue which was that the level of expenses allowable without any formal expense claim did not realistically cover the average expenses of States members. The Committee requested the Senior Executive Officer to refer the matter back to the Comptroller for further consideration.  |
| Remuneration<br>Sub-Committee -<br>recommen-<br>dations<br>1240/3(70) | A3. The Committee, with reference to its Act No. A4 of 11th July 2003, gave further consideration to the recommendations of the Remuneration Sub-Committee with regard to the establishment of an independent Remuneration Review Body.   |
| Ex.Off.<br>T.O.S.<br>C.I.Aud.<br>F.E.C.C.                             | The Committee recalled that it had agreed with the Sub-Committee's recommendation that a proposition to abolish the existing means-tested system of remuneration should be lodged as soon as possible for a debate in the autumn session. It confirmed its view that the effect of this abolition should be backdated to 1st January 2003. The Committee was aware that there was no funding for the likely additional cost of this proposal identified in the 2003 budget or the proposed budget of 2004. It recalled, nevertheless, that the current budget for members' remuneration was already inadequate for the number of members receiving income support and expense allowance. The Senior Executive Officer was requested to discuss the implications of this position with the Treasury. |

Deputy J-A Bridge, while supporting the principle of abolishing the means-tested system, wished to record her dissent to the proposed backdating of the effects. The Committee recalled that Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier had previously indicated his dissent to the same.

The Committee further recalled that it had disagreed with the Sub-Committee's recommendation that the States should be asked to agree that all members should continue to receive an identical level of remuneration irrespective of their position of responsibility. It had also felt that the proposed terms of reference for the Review Body were too restrictive. Deputy J-A Bridge clarified the views of the Sub-Committee which felt strongly that the Review Body should be focussed solely on the issue of the appropriate level of remuneration for elected members. This limited function had been the sole purpose of the proposition of Senator E.P. Vibert (P.26/2003) on the establishment of an independent Review Board, approved by the States as amended on 13th May 2003 and the Sub-Committee was opposed to broadening the Review Body's remit. On the question of the terms of reference, Deputy Bridge said that the Sub-Committee was seeking merely to outline the matters that should be taken into account. She pointed out that the wording of the proposition specifically stated that the Review Board should not be 'bound' by these considerations. The Committee, however, remained in favour of extending the Review Body's remit to include the question of responsibility payments. It was also pointed out that, it might be possible for the new Public Finances Administration (Jersey) Law currently being prepared by the Finance and Economics Committee to provide that the Council of Ministers could be empowered to decide on the level of remuneration of its Ministers.

**The Committee decided to refer the matter back to the Sub-Committee for further consideration.**

The Greffier of the States was directed to send a copy of this Act to the Finance and Economics Committee for information.

Draft Public  
Finances  
Administration  
(Jersey) Law  
200-  
447(1)

A4. The Committee, with reference to Act No. A5, dated 29th November 2002, of the Committee as previously constituted, considered a report, dated 18th August 2003, prepared by the Greffier of the States, regarding the fourth draft of the Public Finances Administration (Jersey) Law 200-. In this connexion, the Committee also received a Note, dated 17th July 2003, prepared by Mr. R.E. Harris, States Treasury.

Ex.Off.  
T.O.S.  
C.I.Aud.  
F.E.C.C.

The Committee noted that the draft had been considered by a Sub-Committee consisting of the President, Vice President and Connétable D.F. Gray. It further noted that the draft had not yet been considered by the Finance and Economics Committee itself.

The Committee considered the following key issues in the draft Law -

- (a) **Proposed budget process** - The Committee received a Flow Chart, prepared by the Senior Executive Officer, illustrating the proposed budget approval procedure. The Committee felt that there were a number of issues which should be discussed with the Finance and Economics Committee, in particular: the interaction between the Annual Business Plan and the Appropriation Act; the separation of spending proposals from taxation proposals; the flexibility given to the Council of Ministers to allocate funds within the total sum appropriated to the Executive; and the responsibility given to the Chief Minister, rather than the Finance Minister, to present the budget proposals;
- (b) **Budget for States Assembly** - The Committee did not believe that it was appropriate to include the States Assembly alongside other bodies

described in the law as ‘non-ministerial States’ funded bodies’. It was of the view that separate provisions could be included in the Law for a budget setting mechanism for the States Assembly, which, unlike other non-executive bodies, could clearly be under direct political control, possibly through some form of States Assembly Commission or possibly through a future Privileges and Procedures Committee;

- (c) **Amending the Annual Business Plan and Budget** - The Committee noted that it was proposed that any amendments to the Annual Business Plan or Budget should be lodged at least 14 days in advance. It pointed out that, in that case, the Minister should be required to present the relevant documents to the States at least one month before debate to allow members time to lodge any amendments;
- (d) **Private members’ spending proposals** - The Committee recalled that it had suggested that there should be a provision that would allow private members to bring spending proposals up to a fixed limit (£250,000 was considered);
- (e) **Information to be provided in propositions** - The Committee believed that it would be more appropriate for the requirement for financial and manpower implications to be set out in Standing Orders, which were subject to the approval of the States, rather than in Financial Directions to be made by the Treasurer of the States;
- (f) **Appointment of Treasurer of the States** - The Committee noted that it was proposed that the Treasurer of the States would no longer be appointed by the States. The Committee felt that it would be appropriate to seek the views of the Attorney General on this provision in the light of the statutory independence and authority given to the Treasurer;
- (g) **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** - The Committee believed that the liaison between the CAG and the Public Accounts Committee should be more clearly set out in the draft law. In addition, it felt that States members should have the ability to bring a proposition to remove the CAG from office, if his/her performance was considered unsatisfactory. This should not be limited to the domain of the Chief Minister as in the draft Law. There should also be certain automatic grounds for revocation of the appointment of the CAG.

**The Committee decided to seek a meeting with representatives of the Finance and Economics Committee and its officers to discuss its comments on the draft Law in more detail. It considered a draft letter setting out its views and authorised the President to finalise the same, to be circulated to the Committee before being sent to the President of the Finance and Economics Committee.**

The Greffier of the States was directed to send a copy of this Act to the Finance and Economics Committee for information.

Machinery of  
Government  
Reforms:  
Timetable of  
elections.  
1240/33/2(2)

A5. The Committee considered a paper, dated 21st August 2003, prepared by the Greffier of the States, setting out the issues surrounding the date on which the new ministerial system of government should be introduced. The Committee noted that the report set out in an objective way the advantages and disadvantages of this issue.

C.E., P&R  
P.R.E.O.  
P.R.C.C.

The Committee was aware that the Policy and Resources Committee felt that the new system should be introduced as soon as possible. It noted that the target dates for the legislation to come into force to implement the Machinery of Government Reforms had slipped from the original target of July 2004 to the first quarter of

Ex.Off.  
T.O.S.  
C.I.Aud.  
F.E.C.C.

2005. Consequently, if the new ministerial system was to be introduced at the earliest possible date in March 2005, there would be at most a six month period before the elections scheduled for the autumn of 2005. **The Committee did not believe that such a brief interim period would give the ministerial system the opportunity for making the best possible start. It had been suggested that this might be considered a trial period for the new ministerial system but the Committee rejected this notion on the following grounds -**

- (a) The interim period would include the summer recess and the election campaign period when many members of the new Council of Ministers would be involved in canvassing for re-election;
- (b) There was the possibility that the new Chief Minister would not be facing an election at that time, a situation which the Committee did not feel was satisfactory. It felt that it was essential that candidates for the position of Chief Minister or other ministerial positions should have the opportunity to present their policies for the endorsement of the people through a public election.
- (c) Members in the Scrutiny role would find themselves in a position where they could not undertake any meaningful reviews due to the short time at their disposal, yet they might feel under some pressure to make an early impact.

The Committee considered the possibility of bringing forward the elections to the Spring of 2005, thus avoiding the need for an interim period. The Committee, however, was aware that the current two-tier system of elections would be difficult to operate in the Spring when Easter and other public holidays limited the possible dates.

In connexion with the date of the election, the Committee noted correspondence, dated 14th August 2001, from the Principal Legal Adviser to the Manager, Machinery of Government Reforms, in which the question of shortening members' terms office had been considered. It was suggested by the Principal Legal Adviser that the States had the authority to take this action if it was considered to be in the public interest. **The Committee requested that, in view of the period of time since that letter was written, the Principal Legal Adviser be asked to revisit his advice to ensure that its reasoning remained in accordance with current views in respect of constitutional and human rights implications.**

The Committee was also mindful that, besides the legislation programme, there were other relevant issues regarding the Machinery of Government which had yet to be determined, such as the question of a single General Election and possible changes to the composition of the States Assembly, matters properly within the remit of the Special Committee on the Composition and Election of the States Assembly. The Committee, whilst understanding the desire of the Policy and Resources Committee not to delay unnecessarily the implementation of the ministerial system, was firmly of the belief that all the strands involved in the machinery of government reforms should be properly integrated before the new system was advanced. **The Committee agreed that it was important to maintain the target dates for the legislation programme in order to keep up the momentum for the implementation of the Machinery of Government reforms.** As regards its own workload for progressing these reforms the Committee noted the disparity in resources between its own support team, consisting of two Executive Officers and a part-time administrator on a temporary contract, and the Machinery of Government Reform team available to the Policy and Resources Committee.

The Greffier of the States was directed to send a copy of this Act to Policy and Resources and Finance and Economics Committees for information.

States Members' accommodation, services and facilities.  
1060/5/1(18)

Ex.Off.  
E.P.S.C.(2)  
Encl.

A6. The Committee, with reference to its Act No. A5 of 17th January 2003, received a report, dated 15th August 2003, prepared by the Executive Officer, on the furnishing of the States members' areas of the States Building and the allocation and use of space in the same.

**The Committee considered the recommendations contained in the report and agreed, as follows -**

- (a) **that a Consultation Group be set up**, chaired by Deputy J.A. Bernstein, to make recommendations on furnishing the States members' areas of the States Building. It was further agreed to invite Senator J.A. Le Maistre and Connétable J. Le S. Gallichan to join this Group. It was felt that this Group would represent a cross-section of views to ensure that the needs to all States members were met. The Committee authorised the Consultation Group to negotiate best value deals on furniture for the Interview Rooms, Library and common Room, once needs had been identified. (It was noted that funding for this purpose, in the sum of £50,000, was currently held by the Environment and Public Services Committee);
- (b) **that expressions of interest for furnishing the Committee Rooms would be invited** through advertisement in the local press. (It was noted that funding for this purpose was not available within the budget held by the Environment and Public Services Committee. It was agreed that the required funding should be allocated from the 2003 Shadow Scrutiny budget);
- (c) **that the Gallery to the Old Library remain unfurnished until such time as the future needs of the States members' office space had been identified.** It was suggested that this area might be utilised for the purposes of the Shadow Scrutiny Panels. (This was to be the subject of a further paper to be submitted to the Committee at its next meeting.) It was further agreed that the Law Society Library should be re-located as its current allocated area was both too small and inappropriately sited, requiring access through the Gallery to the Old Library which was within the States members' area;
- (d) **that the Privileges and Procedures Committee office should be situated in Committee Room 3 (Old Smokers' Room) for a period of two years** until after Ministerial Government had been fully implemented, in order to support States Members' services staff in the early days whilst members' long term needs were being fully assessed. It was considered doubtful that three Committee Rooms would be required in the States Building. It was made clear that, after this period, the use of this room would be re-assessed in line with States members' needs and priorities at that time;
- (e) **that one of the three interview rooms in the States members' area should be set up as a 'hot desk' facility for members.** The Committee was advised that the middle room of the three designated Interview Rooms had relatively poor acoustics and lighting and was considered to be less suitable as a meeting room. Nevertheless this room could be re-arranged easily for use as a meeting room if required; and
- (f) **that the Environment and Public Services Committee be requested to draft a Report and Proposition, in response to Senator S. Syvret's amendment to P.119/2000, setting out the allocation of rooms for States members and the use of these rooms,** making clear that the Privileges and Procedures Committee was not yet satisfied that

the needs of the legislature could be assessed until the extra services members would require during the Machinery of Government Reform implementation became apparent.

The Committee also considered a proposal that the room currently allocated as a Media Room be given over for the temporary use as an office for the President of the Privileges and Procedures Committee. This would enable the President to store Committee papers currently kept at his legal practice more appropriately and efficiently. An office space would also enable the President to meet in an appropriate environment any States members who wished to discuss matters of concern. It was suggested that the Media Room was unlikely to be used for its intended purpose as there was no ready access from the media booth overlooking the States Chamber. **The Committee decided not to pursue the proposal for the change of use of this room. It requested Executive Officer to examine with the Chief Architect the feasibility of creating an access between the Media Booth and the Media Room so that the room could be used for the purpose for which it was designed.**

The Committee noted that its Officers were planning to produce a newsletter for States members to inform them of the above issues together with developments regarding the installation of a simultaneous electronic voting system and options for a recording and transcription service for the Assembly and its Committees.

The Greffier of the States was directed to send a copy of this Act to the Environment and Public Services Committee, together with the above report attached as an appendix.

Royal  
Court/States  
Building:  
disabled access  
and circulation.  
1060/5/1(12)

A7. The Committee received a report, dated 25th July 2003, from the Chief Architect regarding access and circulation in the Royal Court and States Building for those with a disability.

The Committee was advised that a tour of the building by a user of a motorised wheel chair and a member of the Blind Society had raised a number of issues for disabled users. The Committee noted that, although the majority of the issues had been resolved, there remained a few outstanding points of concern; in particular -

Ex.Off.  
E.P.S.C.(2)

- (i) **Exterior Terrace to the east of the Podium** - The Committee was advised that wheelchair users would not feel safe using this terrace as a ramp to the podium, despite the width of the terrace. For this reason, the Committee felt that the feasibility of an additional ramp to the west of the Podium should be revisited as this could incorporate railings;
- (ii) **Access to States members' area** - The Committee felt that a ramp was essential to enable wheelchair access to this area and that this should be progressed as a matter of priority;
- (iii) **Main Staircase treads** - The Committee felt that an additional insert should be incorporated; and
- (iv) **Rainwater pipe** - The Committee felt that the position of this pipe was an unacceptable risk and should be resolved as soon as possible.

The Committee noted that modifications to the historic States Building had been carried out in accordance with existing bye-laws. However, it felt that these bye-laws should be updated in line with latest standards on disabled access. It was recognised that implementing the adaptations considered necessary for improving disabled access and circulation would incur some additional costs. **However, the Committee felt that it was important to ensure that access for all was maximised as far as possible. It requested the Environment and Public Services Committee to identify a source for the required additional funding**

**within its budget or, if necessary, seek additional funding.**

The Greffier of the States was directed to send a copy of this Act to the Environment and Public Services Committee.

States Building  
Maintenance and  
Service Charges  
2004

A8. The Committee received correspondence, dated 11th August 2003, from the President of the Finance and Economics Committee in relation to the States Building Maintenance and Service Charges for 2004.

1060/5/1(42)

The Committee noted that the Finance and Economics Committee had given an assurance that the cost of maintenance and service charges would be met in 2004 but it had recommended that the Committee put forward a bid in the 2005 Fundamental Spending Review process for the shortfall in future funding for this purpose.

Ex.Off.  
T.O.S.  
C.I.Aud.  
F.E.C.C.

The Committee further noted that the Finance and Economics Committee intended to negotiate Service Level Agreements with tenant departments with transparency in the cost of charges. It was advised that a draft Service Level Agreement had been received and was being examined by its officers.

The Greffier of the States was directed to send a copy of this Act to the Finance and Economics Committee to acknowledge the above.

Electronic  
Voting/  
Hansard -  
comprehensive  
ICT options.

A9. The Committee, with reference to its Acts No. A9 of 25th April 2003 and A2 of 30th May 2003, received a report, dated 15th August 2003, prepared by the Executive Officer, with regard to comprehensive ICT options for a simultaneous electronic voting system and the recording and transcription of the States Assembly and its Committees.

1240/22(8)

1240/10/1(1)

The Committee was aware that, following the adoption by the States of its Report and Proposition on a Simultaneous Electronic Voting to replace the appel nominal (P.10/2003), much work had been done to identify the best system available. It was advised, however, that, on recent consultation with the IT Director of Computer Services and the e-government team, concern had been expressed as to the compatibility of the proposed product with the existing States network. Work was now being carried out to ensure compatibility but this would inevitably delay the installation of the new system.

Ex.Off.  
T.O.S.  
C.I.Aud.  
F.E.C.C.  
States (2)

The Committee was advised that the above discussions had raised further concerns about the piecemeal approach which had been adopted with regard to purchasing of IT systems. It had been suggested that with further consultation between the Officers of the PPC and Computer Services, the States Members' business requirements with regards to ICT, present and future, should be identified as a whole before any more individual products were purchased. It was very likely that a bespoke system could be created which would cater for all of the requirements rather than lots of smaller products from different companies which would lead to higher management/maintenance costs. This was likely to lead to overall cost savings.

The Committee was further advised that the new digital audio recording system which had been installed in the States Chamber had the option of a "Bolt on" facility which would allow the audio to be "streamed" on the existing States Assembly website allowing the Public, Civil Servants and Politicians alike to listen to the debate live or to archive audio files. Although demonstrations had been hosted by the e-government team at Computer Services in the "Webcasting" (Video streaming with linked audio and transcription) of debates it was recognised that in the current financial climate the States could not justify the Video streaming of the debates especially with Public demand unknown. **The Committee charged the Executive Officer to investigate instead the option of enhancing the current Audio product to allow debates to be linked to the existing website, where**

**demand could be monitored for the time being, as well as ensuring that in the future if a Video output was required that it too could be added to the existing system.**

The Committee, mindful that it had lodged its proposition P.81/2003 (“Hansard”) containing its recommendations for a recording and transcription service for the States Assembly and its Committees and that this proposition would form the foundation for any new product, decided to request that the proposition be debated by the States at the earliest opportunity.

The Greffier of the States was directed to send a copy of this Act to the Finance and Economics Committee for information.

States members’  
access to  
Committee  
Minutes.  
1240/1/2(18)

A10. The Committee, with reference to Act No. A6, dated 24th May 2002, of the Committee as previously constituted, considered e-mail correspondence, dated 16th June 2003, from Deputy J.L. Dorey relating to concerns relating to States members’ free access to Committee minutes.

Ex.Off.

The Committee recalled that the current policy in this respect was based on the 1987 ruling of the then Attorney General that members were entitled to access Committee minutes and other papers in the custody of the Greffier of the States in connexion with matters connected to their States’ duties. Members were not required to refer a request to consult papers to the Committee concerned, but the normal practice was for members to inform the relevant President as a matter of courtesy. The Committee further recalled that, in view of concerns regarding possible breaches of confidentiality, data protection and human rights, it had written to all Committees requesting them to review their practices in relation to the inclusion of names in Committee minutes, particularly where sensitive personal details were involved, as in the case of applications under Regulation 1(1)(g) of the Housing Regulations or applications for medical retirement to the Human Resources Sub-Committee. The Committee was aware that some Committees, such as the Health and Social Services Committee, had introduced a coding system to replace individual names in matters such as applications under the Mental Health (Jersey) Law, 1969. Other Committees, however, such as the Housing Committee, had not changed their practices in this respect.

**The Committee decided to refer the issue to the Freedom of Information Working Party for further consideration.**

Deputy F.J. Hill, B.E.M., withdrew from the meeting for this item. The Committee wished to record that no impropriety on his part had been alleged or found against him.

On a related matter and mindful of the recent circumstances in which the former Senator R.J. Shenton had been refused access to the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee in connexion with meetings he had attended where the matter of the claim by Les Pas Holdings to the St. Helier Foreshore had been discussed, the Committee received a copy of the United Kingdom Civil Service Guidance on Access by Former Ministers to official Papers. **The Committee decided to refer this matter also to the Freedom of Information Working Party for further consideration.**

States Members  
remuneration:  
Social Security  
classification of  
States members.  
1240/3(63)

A11. The Committee, with reference to its Act No. A2(c) of 21st March 2003, considered correspondence, dated 17th July 2003, from Mr. D. O’Callaghan, Director, Compliance and Governance, Employment and Social Security Department, in connexion with the implications, advantages, disadvantages and costs involved should all States members be reclassified as Class 1 employees for Social Security liability purposes. In addition, the Committee was advised of the position if States members continued to be liable for Class 2 but with the income



Ex.Off.  
Emp.SSC(2)

bar removed so that all members could receive re-imbusement of the employee's portion of the Class 2 contribution.

**The Committee, aware that in the United Kingdom legislation had been introduced in order to classify Members of Parliament as 'employees', decided to request the Employment and Social Security Committee to consider similarly amending the Social Security (Jersey) Law, 1974, to reflect the actuality of States members' position as 'employees' of the States of Jersey.**

The Greffier of the States was directed to send a copy of this Act to the Employment and Social Security Committee accordingly.

2004 Budget  
Book Submission  
465/2(5)

A12. The Committee received a draft submission in respect of its contribution to the 2004 Budget Book of the Finance and Economics Committee.

Ex.Off.  
T.O.S.  
C.I.Aud.  
F.E.C.C.  
A.G.O.S.

The Committee noted that the narrative detailed the proposed Finance and Economics transfers to its budget with effect from 1st January 2004 and information on the 2004 Fundamental Spending Review outcomes, inherited from the Finance and Economics Committee, rendering an overall Cash Limit of £3,966,950.

**The Committee approved the draft submission, subject to further revision by the President, and authorised the Assistant Greffier of the States to forward all relevant information to the Treasurer of the States.** The Greffier of the States was directed to send a copy of this Act to the Finance and Economics Committee for information.

Matters for  
information.

A13. The Committee noted the following matters for information -

- (a) that further work was being done on a draft Report and Proposition on proposals to improve the implementation of the Code of Practice on Public Access to Official Information;
- (b) a paper, dated 17th July 2003, from the Greffier of the States regarding issues raised by the Treasurer of the States and the Chief Executive of the Policy and Resources Committee in connexion with the time required by Departments to deal with States members' questions. The Committee requested that the matter be referred to the Working Party on the arrangements for Public Business in the States;
- (c) a request by Senator P.V.F. Le Claire to consider requesting the Policy and Resources Committee be requested to provide all States members with the full legal advice given to it in respect of its proposition on Migration Policy (P.102/2003). The Committee agreed to consider this issue at its next meeting;
- (d) that comments had been expressed to the President regarding the appearance of a special role being created for the senior member of the States. The Committee, having noted that the President was a member of the Bailiff's Consultative Panel was of the view that it would be appropriate for the matter to be raised in that Forum;
- (e) the President undertook to prepare a report on the work of the Tribunals Working Party for the next meeting; and
- (f) the date of the next meeting to take place on Friday 19th September 2003, commencing at 9.30 a.m., in the Halkett Room, Morier House.

Acts of other

A14. The Committee noted the following Acts of other Committees -

Committees.

- (a) Act No. A7, dated 3rd July 2003, of the Policy and Resources Committee in connexion with the establishment of Scrutiny Panels;
- (b) Act No. A4, dated the 2nd July 2003, of the Finances and Economics Committee in connexion with establishment of Scrutiny Panels;
- (c) Act No. A13, dated the 4th July 2003, of the Legislation Committee in connexion with the Freedom of Information Working Party;
- (d) Act No. A6, dated 10th July 2003, of the Policy and Resources Committee regarding the Establishment of Scrutiny Panels and its response to Senator Syvret's amendments;
- (e) Act No. A6, dated 6th August 2003 of the Finance and Economics Committee in connexion with increased charges levied by the Environment and Public Services Committee on the tenant departments of the States Building; and
- (f) Act No. B3, dated 2nd July 2003, of the Finance and Economics Committee in connexion with the Fundamental Spending Review.

Board of  
Administrative  
Appeals.  
1386(3)  
465/1(30)

A15. The Committee, with reference to its Act No. A6 of 25th April 2003, received Mr. R.R. Jeune, C.B.E., to mark his retirement as Chairman of the Administrative Appeals Panel.

The Committee acknowledged Mr. Jeune's rôle in establishing an independent appeals system.

Mr. Jeune maintained that the need for a system of review by Boards of Administrative Appeals remained valid today. The present system had been approved and validated by the British and Irish Ombudsman Association. Its main advantages were that it was presided over by a lawyer; it met in public; there was little expense to the taxpayer; and there was little delay. Committees were not obliged to accept the recommendations of the Board but public influence could be brought to bear on any Committees which refused to change a decision. The main change he would advocate regarded the removal of the Greffier of the States from the decision whether or not to submit a case to the Board. He felt that States members and the Public should be educated in the potential advantages of using the present system.

The Committee presented Mr. Jeune with a retirement gift.

Media attendance  
at meeting.

A16. The Committee congratulated Mr. B. Querée, who had been present throughout the meeting, on his recent appointment as Political Editor at the Jersey Evening Post