

## CHAIRMEN'S COMMITTEE

Supplementary Meeting of Chairmen held on 9th March 2006

[Held subsequent to meeting with Council of Ministers of this day]  
Relevant briefing notes from CoM attached

Present	Deputy R C Duhamel, President Deputy J.A. Martin, Vice-Chairman, Social Affairs Panel Deputy G P Southern Deputy P J D Ryan Deputy S C Ferguson Deputy J G Reed
Apologies	
Absent	
In attendance	K. Tremellen-Frost, Scrutiny Manager Mr. M. Haden, Scrutiny Officer (Item 1)

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
<b>1.</b>  <b>17.02.06</b> <b>item 5</b>	<b>Legal advice Protocol</b>  The Panel considered the above matter in respect of its meeting with the Council of Ministers and it was encouraged by the positive response of the Ministers to the draft protocol. The Committee, however, was less encouraged by comments made by H.M Attorney General in particular that Scrutiny Panels were not part of government and that if the protocol were to be included in the draft Scrutiny Code of Practice, the quality of advice from the Law Officer's Department would be less positive and more conservative. The Committee noted the Council's view that the quality of advice should be equally good for all parties.  It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Chief Minister encouraging the Council of Ministers to progress the matter urgently so that the Scrutiny Code of Conduct could be "lodged au Greffe" and reviews could be progressed.	<b>KTF/RD</b>
<b>2.</b>  <b>27.01.06</b> <b>item 8</b>	<b>Communications Unit</b>  The Committee noted the Council of Minister's view that the basis for costing and staffing the Communications Unit was on the Executive's work programme. Should Scrutiny require the service of this unit it would be necessary for Scrutiny to contribute to the resourcing of the unit. Whilst no conflict could be identified for the Unit serving both purposes and an occasional small amount of time could be dedicated to Scrutiny to offer advice, the Unit was already stretched in undertaking its current workload.  The Committee decided that the Communications Unit was in effect the "voice of the Executive" and that it would be inappropriate for it to have any involvement in scrutiny issues.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Media</b>  The Committee expressed its concern about the poor press	

coverage through the Jersey Evening Post and noted that Deputy Duhamel had arranged to meet Mr C. Bright, JEP Editor to discuss this and to discuss the possibility of having a full page regular slot in the paper dedicated to Scrutiny.

Deputy Duhamel would report back at the next meeting.

**RD**

Signed

Date:

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President, Chairmen's Committee