

# STATES OF JERSEY



## SCRUTINY PANEL CONSTITUTION: MINIMUM SIZE

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**Lodged au Greffe on 7th November 2023  
by Deputy M.B. Andrews of St Helier North  
Earliest date for debate: 28th November 2023**

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**STATES GREFFE**

## **PROPOSITION**

**THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion –**

to request the Privileges and Procedures Committee to bring forward, before December 2024, the necessary amendments to the Standing Orders of the States of Jersey–

- (a) to permit a Scrutiny Panel to operate with fewer than three Members no longer than the States meeting following a reduction in the number of Members of the panel to fewer than three; and
- (b) to require the election of a Scrutiny Panel Chair at the next States meeting following the dissolution of a Scrutiny Panel.

DEPUTY M.B. ANDREWS OF ST. HELIER NORTH

## **REPORT**

The Scrutiny function comprises non-executive Members who scrutinise the executive across six different Scrutiny Panels. Standing Orders permit a Scrutiny Panel to elect a maximum of five non-executive Members alongside the appointment of a Chair to a Panel (excluding the Public Accounts Committee). However, there remains no process in Standing Orders to define the number of Members needed to constitute a Panel.

I am proposing to amend Standing Orders to address the potential for a situation where a Member, or Members, other than the Panel Chair, stand down, leaving fewer than three Members on a Scrutiny Panel or Sub-Panel. The Chair will be given until the next States meeting to recruit sufficient Members to the Panel – if this is not possible then Scrutiny Panel or Sub-Panel will automatically dissolve,

If a Scrutiny Panel or Sub-Panel dissolves, I am proposing the States Assembly will hold an election to elect a Chair to the Scrutiny Panel at the next States meeting.

Consideration should also be given for members of a Scrutiny Panel or Sub-Panel who cannot attend scrutiny sessions for medical reasons. In such a case where a Scrutiny Panel has three Members, but one member is absent on long-term sick leave, the Scrutiny Panel or Sub-Panel should not be reconstituted because the Panel still retains three Members to constitute a Panel.

As the work of Scrutiny can be very demanding, covering Government legislation, subordinate legislation, Government policies and areas of overwhelming public interest. I believe there should be a minimum membership requirement for all Scrutiny Panels and Sub-Panels in order to provide effective scrutiny and not to overburden Members.

Therefore, I am asking the Privileges and Procedures Committee to bring forward proposals to change Standing Orders no later than December 2024.

### **Financial and staffing implications**

There will be a drafting amendment to standing orders that will be within existing budget.