

Public Accounts Committee

Record of Meeting

Date: 15th April 2013

Meeting No: 25

Present	Deputy T. Vallois, Chairman Senator S. C. Ferguson, Deputy R. Rondel Deputy G. Baudains Mr I. Ridgway
Apologies	Mr J Mills
In attendance	Mr M. Robbins, Officer to Public Accounts Committee.

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
Item 1 18.03.13	1. Records of Meetings The records of the meetings held on 11th March 2013 were approved and signed.	
	2. Comptroller and Auditor General The Comptroller and Auditor General was absent from the meeting following consultation with the Chairman due to arrangements made prior to her appointment in Jersey.	
	3. Conflicts of Interest Deputy Rondel declared a conflict of interest in the area of grants as he was in receipt of a rural grant due to the nature of his business. It was agreed that were the rural grants to be discussed he would retire from any such proceedings. Deputy Baudains and Mr Ridgway declared a possible conflict of interest if the Committee were to examine aspects of Jersey Telecom.	
Item 12 18.03.13	4. Canbedone Productions Limited Grant The Committee discussed a further draft of the report. Amendments had been put forward by a Committee member and these were discussed and considered in turn. The Committee agreed that the focus of the report had to remain on the process, not the decision itself. At the conclusion of dealing with amendments, the Committee agreed that the Chairman was to oversee the final changes as discussed with the officer after which the report would be ready for publication.	TV / MR
	5. Financial Report and Accounts 2012 The Committee recognised it had a commitment later in the year to	

	<p>review the 2012 Financial Report and Accounts. There was particular concern expressed about the under-spends and contingencies which it was understood, amounted to £56 million. The Committee expected feedback from the Comptroller and Auditor General to assist with the review.</p> <p>A request was to be made for details of all under-spends and contingencies. However, it was agreed that this should only be done after consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General.</p>	MR
Item 14 18.03.13	<p>6. Grants and Subsidies</p> <p>A briefing on 22nd February 2013 from Officers from the Economic Development Department was well received by the Committee and had proved useful in assisting understanding of a complicated process.</p> <p>The Lead Member reported on a meeting with the Education, Sport and Culture officers. It was recognised that there were some concerns with grants becoming smaller over time but similar resources being required to administer them.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that the lead Member was to progress the review by meeting with the officer.</p>	JM / MR
Item 5 04.02.13	<p>7. Committee Membership</p> <p>The Committee was advised of the current position relating to the vacant independent position on the Committee. A Commissioner had been appointed by the Jersey Appointments Commission. A meeting was to take place between the Commissioner and the Chairman later that week. The interview panel was to comprise the Chairman, the Commissioner, Mr K. Soar and Mr J.Mills.</p>	TV
Item 2 07.01.13	<p>8. Gigabyte Jersey</p> <p>The Committee heard that a viewpoint existed that the 'Gigabyte Jersey' process was going badly wrong and needed looking into as it had involved the investment of a large amount of public money. It was understood that the Minister for Treasury and Resources had required expertise to be put in place in the Treasury to manage the process but that this had not been done. It was agreed that there was a governance issue that the Committee could look at and background work was to be undertaken relating to the £41 million investment of public money.</p>	MR
	<p>9. Agenda Items</p> <p>The Committee agreed to move the following agenda items to the next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous Recommendations (Action Updates) • Car Park Trading Fund. • Procurement • Grants and Subsidies 	
	<p>10. Future Meeting</p> <p>The Committee agreed that the next scheduled meeting was to be at 12.30 pm on Monday 13th May 2013 in the Blampied Room of the States Buildings.</p>	MR