WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIRMAN OF PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE BY DEPUTY R.G. LE HÉRISSIER OF ST. SAVIOUR ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 5th JULY 2011

Question

Does the Committee propose to introduce web-casting of the States Assembly and other formal meetings such as Scrutiny proceedings and, if so, when?

Answer

The question of uploading audio of States meetings and Scrutiny hearings has been under consideration for some time.

The Committee has undertaken research into a recommendation of the former Media Working Party that recordings of the States Assembly, committee and scrutiny panel meetings should be made available on the internet. The Committee agreed that, provided there was sufficient demand for such a service, meetings should be broadcast live and be available to listen to on demand until the transcript of that meeting had been uploaded. The Committee agreed in December 2010 that, prior to pursuing such an approach, research should be undertaken into the feasibility of uploading audio from pre-recorded meetings on a trial basis so as to establish whether there was a demand for such a service, as the Committee was reluctant to incur additional cost if sufficient demand did not exist.

The proposed uploading of audio from scrutiny hearings was raised by the Chairman at the Chairmen's Committee meeting which had been attended by Committee representatives on Thursday 12th May 2011.

The minutes of the PPC's next meeting held on 24th May 2011 state –

"The proposed uploading of audio from scrutiny hearings had been raised by the Chairman at the Chairmen's Committee meeting which had been attended by Committee representatives on Thursday 12th May 2011. At that meeting, concern had been expressed that members of the public might be able to edit the available audio and upload parts of it to other websites. In response to these concerns, the President of the Chairmen's Committee had agreed to refer the matter to the individual scrutiny panels for consideration. The position was **noted** and the Committee **agreed** to await comments from Scrutiny in this regard."

The Committee is still awaiting comments from the Scrutiny Panels in this regard, including from the Education and Home Affairs Panel, of which Deputy Le Hérissier is the Chairman.