

Social Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Meeting 23

Date: Monday 2nd October 2006

Location: Blampied Room, States Building

Present	Deputy F.J. Hill, B.E.M., Chairman Deputy J.A. Martin, Vice Chairman Deputy D.W. Mezbourian Deputy A.E. Pryke
Apologies	Deputy S. Pitman
Absent	
In attendance	Mr. C. Ahier, Scrutiny Officer Mr. W. Millow, Scrutiny Officer Mrs. K. Tremellen-Frost, Scrutiny Manager (for a time during item 2b)

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Minutes of previous meetings</p> <p>The Panel approved the minutes of its meeting of the 19th September 2006.</p>	
	<p>2. Matters arising</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) Action Updates</p> <p>The Panel noted updates on actions requested at its previous meetings and agreed the following further actions:</p>	
[04/09/06 Item 8a]	2. The Panel agreed to write to the topic proposer informing him of progress in this area.	CA/WM
[04/09/06 Item 9]	3. The Panel agreed to write a further letter to the Chief Minister requesting an update on progress in this area.	CA/WM
[04/09/06 Item 13]	4. The Panel agreed to send the letter that had been previously drafted.	CA/WM
	<p style="padding-left: 40px;">b) Chairman and Panel Members Actions</p> <p>The Chairman informed the Panel that a media consultancy firm, Orchid Communications, had been appointed by the Chairmen's Committee after a process in which six companies were interviewed and three shortlisted.</p> <p>Deputy Mezbourian explained that the consultancy firm had been contracted to do ten hours work per week on a four month trial basis from October 2006. It was confirmed that Orchid would be arranging to meet with all of the Scrutiny Panels in order to understand what the Panels wanted by way of support and how the Panels felt the scrutiny process should be portrayed to the public. The Panel was further informed that the work of the</p>	

	<p>media consultants would be co-ordinated and managed by the Chairmen's Committee through the Scrutiny Manager.</p> <p>Deputy Mezbourian updated the Panel in respect of progress in organising the Scrutiny Away-Day. The Panel were informed that the current proposal was for all non-Executive members to be invited to attend along with the Scrutiny Office staff.</p> <p>The Panel noted the Government Communication Day being organised by the Chief Minister's Department on Monday 20th October.</p> <p>The Panel considered the split of the Social Affairs Panel to form a fifth Panel. The Panel discussed the possibility of considering this issue at the proposed Away-Day</p> <p>The Chairman informed the Panel that he would be attending a meeting of ATTAC on Thursday 19th October in order to talk about the rôle of Scrutiny.</p>	
	<p>3. Rôle of the Centenier in the Magistrate's Court</p> <p>The Chairman updated the Panel on progress in respect of this review. The Panel were informed that arrangements for the visit of Ms. T. Easton from the Crown Prosecution Service were in hand. As a result of discussions the Panel agreed the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To write to Centenier Rigby confirming his attendance at a Public Hearing Monday 30th October from 1:30pm until 2:30pm; • To write to Centeniers Gotel and Foley acknowledging their submissions and thanking them; • To ascertain the status of the transcripts for the Public Hearings of the 19th and 23rd September; • For the Chairman to meet with Ms. Easton at her hotel and accompany her to the States building; • To book a restaurant on the evening of Thursday 5th October in order for the Panel to dine with Ms. Easton; and • For the Chairman to transport Ms. Easton to the airport and provide lunch on Friday 6th October. 	<p>CA/WM</p> <p>CA/WM CA/WM</p> <p>Chairman</p> <p>CA/WM</p> <p>Chairman</p>
	<p>4. Income Support</p> <p>The Chairman of the Sub-Panel informed the Panel that the Interim Report would be completed in time for presentation to the States on Tuesday 10th October. The review would then be suspended until more detailed information was available from the Social Security Department. Based upon information currently available, it was unlikely that the review would re-start before 2007.</p>	

	<p>5. GP Out-of-Hours</p> <p>The Panel considered the forthcoming Public Hearings with Dr. Cameron and the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA). The Panel noted that there was currently no date for a Public Hearing with the Minister for Health & Social Services or Dr. Perchard. The Panel further noted that a performance review of the GP Out-of-Hours Service was required on 6th October 2006 and agreed to request a copy of the results in advance of any subsequent Public Hearing with the Minister and Dr. Perchard. The Panel went on to discuss a possible line of questioning for the Minister and Dr. Perchard concerning the use of alternative premises, namely established doctor's surgeries.</p>	<p>CA/WM</p>
	<p>6. Overdale</p> <p>The Panel noted the arrangements for the forthcoming Public Hearings. The Panel were informed that Mrs. I. Le Feuvre had been suggested as a potential witness by the Health & Social Services Department.</p>	
	<p>7. HMP La Moye</p> <p>The Panel received copies of the draft report on HMP La Moye. The Chairman informed the Panel that answers by the Minister for Home Affairs in the States to questions posed by the Panel members had been put on file in the Scrutiny Office.</p> <p>The Panel discussed the outstanding Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) and agreed to consider the report at their next meeting.</p>	
	<p>8. Update on Topic Proposals</p> <p>a). The Panel noted the Act of the Legislation Committee and agreed to advise the topic proposed accordingly.</p> <p>b). The Panel noted the correspondence from the Minister for Home Affairs and agreed to notify the topic proposed accordingly.</p>	<p>CA/WM</p> <p>CA/WM</p>
	<p>9. Questions to Ministers</p> <p>The Panel noted the forthcoming arrangements for questions without notice to Ministers.</p>	
	<p>10. Future Meetings</p> <p>The Panel considered the arrangements for the forthcoming Public Hearings and noted it would next meet on Monday 16th October 2006 at 9:20am in the Le Capelain Room, States Building.</p>	

Signed

Date

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Chairman, Social Affairs Panel

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