

CHAIRMEN'S COMMITTEE

Meeting of Chairmen held on 27th October 2006
Meeting No. 31

PUBLIC SESSION

Present	Deputy R C Duhamel, President Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier, Vice-President Deputy F J Hill Deputy J. G. Reed Deputy S C Ferguson Deputy G P Southern Deputy P J D Ryan
Apologies	
In attendance	Mr. M. de la Haye, Greffier of the States (for item 1, private session) Mrs A. Harris, Deputy Greffier of the States Mr. M. P. Haden, Scrutiny Office

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
1.	<p>Minutes</p> <p>The Minutes of 8th, 12th, 19th, 22nd and 29th September 2006 were approved, subject to the following amendments -</p> <p>a) Item 22, 8th September 2006: deletion of second paragraph;</p> <p>b) Item 1, 19th September 2006: the action was to be taken by the Chairman in liaison with the Greffier of the States.</p>	
2 Item 5 08.09.06	<p>Matters arising - stand-alone propositions</p> <p>Amendment to Standing Orders- the Committee was advised that the Privileges and Procedures Committee had referred the proposed amendment to Standing Orders regarding stand alone scrutiny propositions to the Council of Ministers for comment. The President undertook to contact the Chief Minister directly to enquire about the outcome.</p>	RD
3	<p>Third quarter financial report</p> <p>The Committee considered the financial report for the third quarter 2006, together with additional information summarising to the expenditure. The Committee requested that in future it receive only the summary information rather than detailed information on each item of expenditure.</p> <p>a) Expenditure on Travel - the Chairmen of the Environment and Social Affairs Panels explained the rationale for their Panels' expenditure on visits to the United Kingdom and the contribution these visits had made to their reviews. It was agreed that Panels were fully justified in making such visits when they extended the Panel's understanding of issues related to reviews. It was noted that the expenditure of the Social Affairs Panel day visit to Southampton compared favourably to a week long visit by Legal Advisers to York to examine training for designated case officers.</p> <p>b) Travel expenses It was agreed that members should be entitled to an expenses allowance when travelling equivalent to the allowance for members on visits with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. This was for use on matters such as</p>	

	<p>taxi fares, light meals etc.</p> <p>c) Legal advice - it was agreed that this expenditure should be shown on a separate line.</p> <p>d) Miscellaneous items - the Committee noted that the Environment Panel had incurred £5176 in 'miscellaneous' expenditure. It was informed that this related to the compost exhibition at the RJA&HS and to the Krysteline glass implosion machine.</p>	
4	<p>Reports for Ministerial decisions</p> <p>The Committee noted the outcome of a meeting between the President and the Chief Executive in which it had been agreed that details of relevant additional information should be included, where appropriate, in reports accompanying ministerial decisions so that Scrutiny could more easily request relevant documents where necessary. This was confirmed in an e-mail, dated 17th October 2006, to members of the Corporate Management Board from the Policy Adviser, Chief Minister's Department.</p>	
5 Item 3 22.09.06	<p>Scrutiny Away Day</p> <p>The schedule for the Away day on 3rd November was noted. The Deputy of St. Ouen apologised for the fact that an early press release had been made in response to pressure from the Jersey Evening Post.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to amend some of the arrangements to allow for a sandwich lunch to afford greater time to the media at the lunch break.</p> <p>The Committee thanked Deputies Reed and Mezbourian for the arrangements they had made for the day.</p>	
6	<p>Panel reports</p> <p>a. Corporate Services Panel</p> <p>Adviser - The Committee noted that further work would be undertaken by the both the GST and Zero/ten Sub panels following the publication of their reports. An estimate for £11,510 for further work to be undertaken by the Panel's adviser on GST (9 additional days) and Zero/ten (7 additional days) was approved by the Committee. A vote of thanks was given to the officers who had worked long and hard on this review.</p> <p>Domestic Housing - The Committee noted the Contract for Services and the Agreement for the provision of consultancy services for the research work undertaken by the Mortgage Shop Plus into the sale of domestic housing. The cost of the project was £3,000. The Committee was informed that this had resulted in a useful insight into an area where States' official statistics were currently lacking. There was a possibility of a future review of the housing market.</p> <p>States Business Plan process - The Committee was informed that the Corporate Services Panel intended to review the process for the development of the States Business Plan and would welcome input from other Panels in due course.</p> <p>b. Economic Affairs</p> <p>Adviser - The Committee noted the appointment of an adviser for the review of the sale of Jersey Telecom. The Treasury had</p>	

accepted that the requirement for consultants to have professional indemnity insurance was inappropriate for Scrutiny on the basis that Panels might recommend action but the Executive was responsible for taking decisions. It was agreed to amend the standard form of contract accordingly and to request the Treasury to confirm their acceptance in writing.

Fulfilment - Deputy Southern outlined the key findings and recommendations in the report on fulfilment which was to be published on 30th October 2006. It had been necessary to obtain external legal advice for this review. It was made clear in the report that legal advice had not come from the Attorney General. Deputy Ryan declared a conflict of interest and withdrew from the meeting for this item.

Dairy - The Panel had hoped to visit Guernsey; however, this had been refused on the grounds that it would be 'politically divisive'. It was expected that a similar reaction would occur in relation to the Telecoms review.

Partnership with the Executive - It was agreed that the question of Scrutiny working on a review in partnership with the Executive should be reviewed at the end of the Dairy review.

c Social Affairs Panel

Prison - The Panel was awaiting the performance improvement plan.

Income Support - This review would recommence in the New Year. The Chairman expressed his appreciation for the work undertaken by Deputy Martin who had chaired this review.

GP out of hours - The sub Panel was experiencing difficulties in making a date for a public hearing with the Minister of Health and Social Services. It was expected that this review would be finalised before the end of the year.

Overdale - The Sub Panel was now preparing its report.

Centeniers - Further hearings were being held including one with the Attorney General. It was expected that this review would be finalised before the end of the year.

Education, Sport and Culture - The Panel was experiencing difficulties and delays in accessing papers relevant to future reviews on Early Years and the Youth Service.

d. Environment -

Planning process - The Panel was now ready to prepare its report. However, this had been delayed due to other commitments on behalf of the scrutiny officer. The Panel had now formally requested that the completion of the report on this review should be prioritised ahead of any other review and it was agreed that the relevant officer would concentrate solely on the report for the forthcoming two weeks.

Waste - The report of this review was now being compiled, although there might be a requirement for further public hearings. It was expected that this review would be finalised before the end of the year.

Design of Homes - The completion date for this review had now been extended. The Committee recognised that there was often a temptation during a review to examine further issues which had

	<p>been revealed. However, it was also important to reach a conclusion in good time. It was possible, particularly if the review was working closely with the Minister, that initiatives by the department might overtake any recommendations the Panel might make.</p>	
	<p>Any other business</p> <p>a) Register of local advisers: The Committee requested that Panels identify experts who could be included on the register.</p> <p>b) Press releases: The Committee requested that these be given following each Committee meeting.</p> <p>c) Communications Unit: The President requested that a suggestion at the recent Communications Seminar that there should be a closer working relationship with the Communication Unit should be considered at the next meeting.</p>	

Signed.....

Date:.....

President, Chairmen's Committee