

STATES OF JERSEY



BUS SERVICE TENDERING PROCESS: COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY – TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP (P.99/2004) – AMENDMENT

Lodged au Greffe on 15th June 2004
by Deputy R.G. Le Hérisier of St. Saviour

STATES GREFFE

BUS SERVICE TENDERING PROCESS: COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY – TERMS OF REFERENCE AND
MEMBERSHIP (P.99/2004) – AMENDMENT

After paragraph (c) insert the following new paragraph –

- “(d) to request the Finance and Economics Committee to direct –
 - (i) that the Chairman and members of the Committee of Inquiry shall not be remunerated for their services; and
 - (ii) that a sum of no more than £50,000 be made available to the Committee of Inquiry to enable it to fund the provision of expert advice if required.”

DEPUTY R.G. LE HÉRISSIER OF ST. SAVIOUR

REPORT

When the States amended the States of Jersey Law in 2000 the intention was, in part, to encourage lay people to participate in Committees of Inquiry. Indeed the Inquiries held since the amendment to the Law have all had a membership consisting exclusively of lay members. The States have moved away from appointing their own members to Committees of Inquiry.

The thinking appears to have been that lay people, if chosen appropriately, could bring an outside perspective and bring skills and experience not necessarily found amongst States members. In cases where the lay members did not possess relevant skills or knowledge it was understood that the Committee would 'buy in' the relevant expertise or knowledge.

P.99/2004 seems to mark a major departure from the way in which Committees of Inquiry have been developing and could well sound the death knell of the competent lay member. Undoubtedly the nominated persons are an excellent choice but given the enormous cost (an estimate of £100,000 has been given), and the considerable amount of public money already expended on resolving the public transport issue, it seems unfortunate that yet more significant sums of money are being expended.

In conclusion the intention is not to get a Committee of Inquiry 'on the cheap'. It is to retain the approach to membership of such Committees as they currently operate and to ensure that relevant expertise is bought in as and when required.

Article 36K of the States of Jersey Law empowers the Finance and Economics Committee to direct what remuneration, if any, should be made available to the members of a Committee of Inquiry, and this amendment requests that Committee to direct that no remuneration should be paid in this Inquiry as has been the case with all Inquiries to date. A sum of up to £50,000 would be made available for the provision of expert advice if required.

If this amendment is adopted the financial implications of the proposition will be reduced.