

**STATEMENT TO BE MADE BY DEPUTY R.C. DUHAMEL OF ST. SAVIOUR,
ONE OF THE CHAIRMEN OF THE SCRUTINY PANELS
ON TUESDAY 19th APRIL 2005**

The Scrutiny Panel, which I chair, has decided, and the Privileges and Procedures Committee has agreed, that it will scrutinise the proposed Goods and Services Tax within the following terms of reference –

1. To review the economic and fiscal environment that has led to the need to consider the introduction of a goods and services tax particularly in respect of –

- (i) recent events within the European Union;
- (ii) recent events within the financial offshore community;
- (iii) the consequences of moving to a zero 10 tax structure; and,
- (iv) the consequences of not making such a move.

2. To review the specific proposals put forward by the Finance and Economics Committee to introduce a goods and services tax particularly in respect of –

- (i) the level of tax ;
- (ii) the range of goods and services covered by the tax;
- (iii) the administrative arrangements required to collect the tax, including arrangements to collect tax on goods ordered by mail or over the Internet; and,
- (iv) the impact of the tax on various sectors of the community.

The timeframe set for the completion of this task is three months with the intention to report at the beginning of the autumn session before the Assembly dissolves for the elections. I trust that members will do all they can if called upon to do so, to help the Scrutiny Panel meet this demanding timetable.