

# Chairmen's Committee

## Record of Meeting

Date: 19th June 2012

Present	Deputy T.A. Vallois, President Senator S.C. Ferguson Deputy J.H. Young Deputy K.L. Moore Connétable of St. Martin, Vice-Chairman, Education and Home Affairs
Apologies	Deputy S.G. Luce, Vice-President Deputy J.M. Maçon
Absent	
In attendance	Mrs K. Tremellen-Frost, Scrutiny Manager

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<b>1. Minutes of previous meetings</b>  The minutes of the meetings of 22nd, 28th and 30th May 2012, having been approved, were accordingly signed. The Part B minutes of 22nd May 2012, having also been approved, were signed.	
	<b>2. Panel Activity Reports</b>  These were noted.	
<b>30.05.12 Item 1  513/35</b>	<b>3. Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)</b>  The Committee noted that the previous lodging date of the MTFP of 3rd July 2012 had suffered slippage and the estimated date for lodging "au Greffe" was now around 23rd July. The Committee considered the uncertainties of the overall process and the ongoing negotiations between Departments which restricted reliable information being provided to Scrutiny. The Committee also considered the importance of questioning whether the budgetary allocations within the MTFP would implement the States-adopted Strategic Plan.	
<b>513/35</b>	<b>4. Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP): Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel:</b>  The scoping document and terms of reference for a review by the Corporate Services Panel and another by the Corporate Services Sub-Panel was noted.	
<b>514/20</b>	<b>5. Radon: Environment Scrutiny Panel</b>  The scoping document and terms of reference for this review was noted.	
<b>22.05.12 Item 6  510/1(42)</b>	<b>6. Podcasting</b>  The Committee, recalling its previous deliberations about Webstreaming, live Webcasting and podcasting, welcomed Mr. P.	

	<p>Taylor, Communications Services to the meeting. The Committee was initially advised of the difference between podcasting (listen post-event) and Webcasting (a live broadcast over the World Wide Web).</p> <p>The Committee was advised that the setting up and management of Webcasting was more complicated than podcasting and would require more training and incur more expenditure although this was minimal. The Committee was advised that podcasting itself would require some training but minimal expenditure and could be set up in the short term.</p> <p>Although enthusiastic about introducing podcasting as soon as possible and giving this in principle agreement, the Committee recalled that it had already agreed that it would be considering these matters together with the matter of members of the public taking images/video of Hearings at its meeting of 3rd July 2012.</p>	
<p><b>511/1(33)</b></p>	<p><b>7. Chairmen’s Committee/Council of Ministers joint meetings</b></p> <p>The Committee noted that the President had been approached by a Scrutiny Member who had questioned why joint meetings between the Chairmen’s Committee and the Council of Ministers, which had occurred during previous terms of office, had ceased.</p> <p>The President had explained that the joint meetings had not achieved many positive outcomes and revised working practices to improve on previous systems had been agreed upon appointment of the current Chief Minister and President.</p> <p>The Committee agreed the most effective and beneficial meetings in terms of outcomes were the monthly meetings between the Chief Minister and President.</p> <p>However, the Committee considered the possible value in terms of communication, of the Chairmen’s Committee and the Council of Ministers meeting as there appeared too few opportunities for Members to meet and work together. It was noted that one of the main opportunities for Members to integrate had, in the past, been over lunches on States Assembly meeting days. The removal of these had encouraged more working in “silos”.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the Committee agreement to the principle of joint meetings, it was mindful not to overburden the Council’s agenda and workload. No conclusion was reached as to specific matters which would merit discussion other than the opportunity to “air issues”. The Committee also considered a suggestion of the Chief Minister that, should joint meetings be required by the Chairmen’s Committee, a presentation on the MTFP would be useful.</p> <p>The Committee agreed six monthly joint meetings should be explored with the first one being in the next few months.</p> <p>It was agreed that the President would discuss this with the Chief Minister at the forthcoming monthly meeting.</p>	<p><b>TV/KTF</b></p>
	<p><b>8. Raising the profile of the media through the Jersey Evening Post (JEP)</b></p>	

<p><b>510/3(8)</b></p>	<p>The Committee was advised that the President had been invited to meet two JEP journalists to discuss ways they could improve working arrangements to enable more features on Scrutiny.</p> <p>The President had suggested that they contact the Scrutiny Office to understand the work that takes place behind the scenes. They had also been requested to advise the President of their own schedules and deadlines, however to date neither of these had been followed up.</p> <p>The Committee noted that media releases needed Panel/PAC agreement prior to circulation and that in the case of the PAC this involved independent Members of the Committee. It was noted that failure to respond to electronic mail communications could cause delays, resulting in missing media deadlines.</p> <p>Although the Committee expressed some concern that the media appeared to be more interested in “bad news” stories as they made more interesting reading, the Committee agreed that there were ways that Panel/Committee profiles could be raised.</p> <p>It was agreed that once the hearing schedule had been circulated this could be followed up with a more detailed press release indicating topics on which the Minister/witness would be questioned. In terms of specific reviews attention could be drawn to the areas of questioning, however, Panels/PAC would need to be exert caution as, in accordance with the Code of Practice for Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee, question plans were not sent to Ministers and it would, therefore, be highly inappropriate to provide the media with detailed questions.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the Health, Social Security and Housing Panel had invited the media to attend fact-finding visits with them although it was stressed that this needed to be agreed with the relevant Department and attention paid to any possible sensitivities/confidentialities. It was agreed that Panels could explore such invitations as and when appropriate.</p>	
<p><b>13.06.12</b> <b>Item 1</b></p> <p><b>517/18</b></p>	<p><b>9. Ministerial Responses to Scrutiny Reports</b></p> <p>The Committee considered the Ministerial Responses to S.R.1/2012 and S.R.2/2012 and expressed concern at the entry by the Minister for Health in response to S.R.2/2012 under the “accept/reject” column of “comment”. This column was specifically designed to identify whether a Minister accepted or rejected a recommendation and not for Ministers to make other comments. There was a third box for comments to be made. The Committee considered entering “comment” in the accept/reject column was inappropriate and could only be taken as a rejection of the recommendation. Given the high profile of the Health, Social Security and Housing review in the public domain and the excellent report, the response was exceedingly disappointing.</p> <p>It was noted that a further report which related to the subject of the Panel review was due to be published shortly and that this would enable the Panel to examine the response in more detail and to</p>	

	<p>challenge the Minister as appropriate. The Chairman, HSSH undertook to progress this matter.</p> <p>The Committee lastly noted the options available for follow-up of Ministerial Responses: by letter, Quarterly Hearing or follow-up Hearing, oral questions in the States or lodging a proposition “<i>au Greffe</i>” for States debate.</p>	<b>KM</b>
<p><b>07.02.12</b> <b>Item5</b>  <b>510/1(61)</b></p>	<p><b>10. Ministerial Responses 2009-2011</b></p> <p>The Committee noted and welcomed a piece of work which was currently being undertaken on all Ministerial Responses which had been presented throughout the 2009-2012 term of office. This entailed listing all accepted Ministerial Responses with an aim to following up on the implementation.</p>	<b>KTF</b>
	<p><b>11. Future meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3rd July 2012 9.30am-10.30am – podcasting and members of the public taking visual footage</li> <li>• 24th July 2012 9.30am – 11.30am – Scheduled meeting deferred from 3rd July 2012</li> </ul>	