

Chairmen's Committee

PUBLIC MEETING

Record of Meeting

Date: 18.02.10
Meeting No: 38

Present	Senator B. E. Shenton, President Senator A. Breckon Senator S.C. Ferguson Deputy M.R. Higgins Deputy T. Pitman (representing Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel) Deputy D. Wimberley (representing Environment Scrutiny Panel)
Apologies	Deputy R.G. Le Hérisssier, Vice-President, Deputy P.J. Rondel
Absent	
In attendance	Mrs K. Tremellen-Frost, Scrutiny Manager

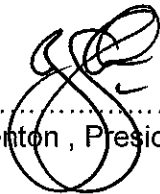
Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	1. Minutes The minutes of 28th and 29th January and 4th and 10th February, having been approved, were signed.	
	2. Panel Activity reports These were noted.	
513/14(8)	3. Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel: Importation of Bull Semen The Committee noted that the Panel might need to do a quick follow-up review on the previous Importation of Bull Semen scrutiny report in light recent importation of impure Jersey Bull Semen.	
1444/4(18)	4. Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel and Public Accounts Committee: Comprehensive Spending Review The Committee noted that consideration was being given as to how the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel and the Public Accounts Committee could work together to review the Comprehensive Spending Review.	
28.01.10 item 7 515/1(26)	5. Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel: potential conflict of Chairman regarding possible review into Jersey airport The Committee noted that both it and the Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel had previously requested the Chairman to consult with the Greffier of the States regarding a possible conflict of interest in airport matters should he wish to be involved in a review of this area. The Committee agreed that, given the areas the Chairman wished to consider, namely: Capital Spend, International Standards and Employment issues, there was no conflict of interest. The Chairman advised that the review would be evidence-based and balanced as he had already identified a previous Airport Director as an adviser.	
29.01.10 item 2	6. Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel: political education review	

516/23(8)	The revised Terms of Reference for the Political Education review were noted and consideration given to whether the title should be "Civic Education" rather than "political." It was agreed that the title would remain, as the review would be objective and was not an attempt to promote particular political views.	
516/1(1)	7. Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel: resignation of Panel Member The Committee noted that the Connétable of St. John had tendered his resignation from the Panel.	
517(1)	8. Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel: invitation of Chief Minister The Committee noted that the Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel was inviting the Chief Minister to a meeting of the Panel to discuss issues which came within its remit.	
517/14(8)	9. Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel: Review into the use of discretion within the Social Security Department The Committee received and noted the scoping document and Terms of Reference with estimated budget of £6,000.	
517/13(8)	10. Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel: Review into Income Support The Committee noted that the public campaign with regard to the above review had been successful in that it had reached out to "harder-to-reach" groups and a very good number of questionnaires had been returned. However it was recognised that it would always be those with problems who would make their voices heard whilst there could be many others who were content with services and funding provided. The Committee considered the benefit of the survey tool "Survey Monkey" in respect of anonymous submissions and related matters and the use of facebook in respect of Data Protection issues. The Committee was also advised that an officer working group was considering all marketing issues and would be bringing a comprehensive paper of the findings to the Committee. The Committee also noted that an evaluation paper was being prepared on the campaign to date.	
517/8(8)	11. Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel Review: Dental Health Services The Committee received and noted the scoping document and terms of reference with estimated budget of £25,000	
512/1(1)	12. Public Accounts Committee: membership The Committee recalled that Connétable Crowcroft had tendered his resignation from the Public Accounts Committee and noted that Mr. P. Ryan had now also tendered his resignation.	
28.01.10 item11 514/1(18) 517/1(24)	13. Work programmes The Committee received the two outstanding work programmes of the Environment and Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panels for 2010. The Committee noted the number of issues currently ongoing in relation to the latter Panel and further noted that the work programme was subject to change.	
	14. Quorum for Panel and Sub-Panel meetings and hearings [Standing Orders (SOs) and Code of Practice for Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee (CoP)]	

510/1(5)	<p>The Committee noted that the quorum for all meetings of Scrutiny Panels was a half its membership rounded up to the next whole number (Standing Order 138). This also applied to Sub-Panels (CoP 4.21). The Committee also noted that a hearing was a meeting of a Panel or Sub-Panel with the purpose of seeking evidence and was also required to be quorate (as stated in CoP 4.14).</p>	
510/1(5)	<p>15. Sub-Panels: appointment and hearings [Standing Orders (SOs) and Code of Practice for Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee (CoP)]</p> <p>The Committee noted the clarity of the Code of Practice 4.21 and 4.25 in that Sub-Panels could only be appointed by the main Panel and the remit and timescale of the review (as contained in the scoping document and the Terms of Reference) agreed by the main Panel and recorded in the minutes. This information was then forwarded to the Chairmen's Committee to enable that Committee to fulfil its co-ordinating and oversight rôle. As above hearings of Sub-Panels required a quorum in order to take place.</p> <p>Also 4.22 of the CoP was clear that when considering establishing a Sub-Panel consideration must be given to the manpower resources allocated to the Panel to ensure that the workload was reasonable and manageable.</p>	
510/1(5)	<p>16. Rapporteurs: appointment and hearings [Standing Orders (SOs) and Code of Practice for Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee (CoP)]</p> <p>The Code of Practice also stated that rapporteurs must be appointed in the same way as Sub-Panels: the main Panel must give a clear remit (scoping document and Terms of Reference) to the rapporteur for his/her review etc. which must be officially minuted and the documents forwarded to the Chairmen's Committee. A rapporteur would be permitted to hold hearings on a specific review only in the event that a clear scoping document and terms of reference had been approved by the main Panel and recorded in the minutes.</p> <p>When appointing a rapporteur consideration must be given to the manpower resources allocated to the Panel to ensure that the workload was reasonable and manageable.</p>	
510/1(5)	<p>17. Public Accounts Committee: sub-groups and rapporteurs</p> <p>The Committee noted that there was no provision within Standing Orders or the Code of Practice, for the Public Accounts Committee to appoint sub-committees or rapporteurs.</p>	
04.02.10 item 1 499/3(22)	<p>18. Review of the rôles of the Crown Officers: invitation to submit</p> <p>The Committee noted that correspondence dated 29th January 2010 had been received from the Chairman of the review of the rôles of the Crown Officers and this had been circulated to all Panels requesting a response from them by 10th March so that they could be considered at the next Chairmen's Committee meeting on 18th March 2010.</p>	Panels
	<p>19. Information requested from Scrutiny Panels</p> <p>The Committee noted that the following had been sent with the following response deadlines:</p>	

	1. Annual Report: items for press release/briefing: end Feb 2. Paper on evidence from C&AG: 10th March 3. Agendas for scrutiny: private or public: 10th March 4. Role of the Crown Officers: 10th March 5. Review into the Code of Practice: end of March;	Panels
	20. Joint meeting with Council of Ministers The Committee agreed that Chairmen would consult with their respective Panels to ascertain whether they had any matters for consideration at the next joint meeting of 18th March 2010. It also agreed that the progression with the Comprehensive Spending Review should be an agenda item.	
17.12.09 item 6 1444/4(18)	21. Comprehensive Spending Review The Committee received a presentation from the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Executive, Treasurer of the States and Mrs. C. Anderson, seconded to the Chief Minister's Department to manage the review. This meeting was held in private under the Code of Practice on Public Access to Official Information [exemption 3.2.1(xiv)] and a record of the meeting made accordingly	
	22. Dates of future meetings The Committee noted that its next meeting would be 18th March 2010, in Le Capelain Room, States Building: 12.00 noon followed by joint meeting with Council of Ministers at 2.00pm. The Committee also considered re-scheduling the meeting times to the morning and the Scrutiny Manager undertook to check the situation in respect of meetings already scheduled.	KTF

Signed



Date:

18/3/2010

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Senator B. Shenton, President