

# Social Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Meeting 25

Date: 30th October 2006

Location: Le Capelain Room, States Building

Present                    Deputy F.J. Hill, B.E.M., Chairman  
                                 Deputy J.A. Martin, Vice Chairman  
                                 Deputy D.W. Mezbourian  
                                 Deputy A.E. Pryke  
                                 Deputy S. Pitman

Apologies

Absent

In attendance            Mr. C. Ahier, Scrutiny Officer  
                                 Mr. W. Millow, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p><b>1. Minutes of the Previous Meetings</b></p> <p>a) Minutes of the meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2006                      The Panel approved the minutes as read.</p> <p>b) Minutes of the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> October 2006 (Public Session)                      The Panel approved the minutes as read.</p> <p>c) Minutes of the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> October 2006 (Private Session)                      The Panel approved the minutes as read.</p>	
<p><b>[04/09/06 Item 3a]</b></p> <p><b>[16/10/06 Item 11]</b></p>	<p><b>2. Matters Arising</b></p> <p>a) Action Updates                      The Panel noted updates on actions requested at its previous meetings and agreed the following further actions:</p> <p>1. The Panel were informed that the States of Jersey Police had sent the information requested in respect of manpower and cost implications in relation to the presentation of cases in the Magistrate's Court. The Panel agreed to send a further reminder to the Parish of St. Helier.</p> <p>11. The Panel requested that a copy of the letter sent to the Minister for Education, Sport &amp; Culture be circulated to all Panel members.</p> <p>b) Chairman and Panel Member Actions</p> <p>The Chairman informed the Panel about the outcomes of the last Chairmen's Committee meeting:</p> <p><u>Scrutiny Code of Practice:</u></p>	<p><b>CA/WM</b></p> <p><b>CA/WM</b></p>

### Legal Advice

The Panel were informed that the Chairman of the Chairmen's Committee received a letter from the Attorney General regarding a legal opinion and subsequently met with the Bailiff and Council of Ministers on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2006 in order to discuss if the letter from the Attorney General could be circulated to all States members. The Bailiff ruled that the letter could not be circulated.

The Panel further considered the issue of whether legal advice given by the Attorney General was the property of the Panel to which it was given or remained the property of the Attorney General and was therefore subject to any restrictions he deemed appropriate.

The Panel agreed that if the current impasse continued in respect of legal advice the relevant laws would have to be changed.

### Panel Expenditure

A paper detailing each Panel's expenditure, previously considered by the Chairmen's Committee, was distributed to the Panel. The Panel noted the paper and agreed that they were unlikely to incur any further significant expenses, in addition to those already budgeted for, before the end of the year.

### Briefing notes

The Panel noted that the Chairmen's Committee briefing notes had been forwarded to them recently. The Panel agreed that this had been detrimental to their understanding of the work of the Committee and further agreed to request copies of the missing briefing notes and to ensure that they received all future briefing notes in a timely fashion.

CA/WM

The Panel went on to discuss other issues raised by Panel members:

### Dairy review

Deputy Pryke informed the Panel about progress with the Dairy review. It was confirmed that the propositions P.68 and P69. had been withdrawn by the Minister for Treasury and Resources following correspondence from the Davis family objecting to the lifting of the covenant at Howard Davis Farm.

### Away-Day

The Panel were informed that, as at that date, no States members of Scrutiny had informed the Department that they would not be attending the Away-Day.

Deputy Mezbourian informed the Panel that the lunchtime arrangements, although approved by the Greffier of the States, had subsequently been changed by the Chairmen's Committee.

	<p><u>Fifth Panel</u></p> <p>The Panel discussed the implications for Scrutiny in general and the Social Affairs Panel in particular. As at that date the Panel were unaware of any States member making a formal announcement of their intention to stand for the position of Chairman.</p> <p><u>HM Prison La Moye</u></p> <p>The Chairman informed the Panel that Senator Perchard had recently asked a question in the States of the Minister for Home Affairs in respect of the Performance Improvement Plan (PIP). It had been confirmed that the PIP had been considered by the Council of Ministers and that they had requested some changes.</p>	
	<p><b>3. Rôle of the Centenier in the Magistrate's Court</b></p> <p>The Panel discussed the forthcoming Public Hearings with Centenier Rigby, the Legal Advisers and the Attorney General. The Panel agreed that these would be the last Public Hearings in respect of this review and that the final report would subsequently be commenced.</p>	
	<p><b>4. GP Out-of-Hours</b></p> <p>The Panel considered the difficulties encountered in agreeing a date for a Public Hearing with both the Minister for Health &amp; Social Services and a representative from the GP Out-of-Hours co-operative. The Panel agreed that the Chairman write to the Minister for Health &amp; Social Services requesting his presence at 10:30am on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November.</p>	<p><b>CA/WM</b></p>
	<p><b>5. Overdale</b></p> <p>The Chairman of the Sub-Panel informed the Panel that all the Public Hearings had been completed and that they were awaiting further information from the Department of Health &amp; Social Services in respect of maintenance figures. The Panel were further informed that there may be a requirement to engage an accountant subject to the outcome of certain discussions. The Sub-Panel's next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October.</p>	
	<p><b>6. Forthcoming Propositions</b></p> <p>The Panel noted the forthcoming propositions lodged for debate by the States relating to their remit and agreed that they would not scrutinise them.</p>	
	<p><b>7. Questions to Ministers</b></p>	

	The Panel noted the arrangements for questions without notice to Ministers.	
	<b>8. Future Meetings</b> The Panel noted the dates of forthcoming Public Hearings and the Scrutiny Away-Day. The Panel further noted that it would next meet at 9:30am on Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2006.	

Signed

Date

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Chairman, Social Affairs Panel

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