

# STATES OF JERSEY



## **DRAFT PUBLIC ELECTIONS (EXPENDITURE AND DONATIONS) (JERSEY) REGULATIONS 201- (P.51/2011): AMENDMENT**

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Lodged au Greffe on 21st April 2011  
by the Privileges and Procedures Committee

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STATES GREFFE

DRAFT PUBLIC ELECTIONS (EXPENDITURE AND DONATIONS) (JERSEY)  
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**PAGE 24, REGULATION 16 –**

- (a) in paragraph (1) for the words beginning “published in” to the end of the paragraph substitute the words “published and distributed in Jersey”;
- (b) in paragraphs (3) and (4) for the words “publish or distribute” substitute the words “publish and distribute”;
- (c) in paragraph (6) –
  - (i) for the words “published or distributed” substitute the words “published and distributed”;
  - (ii) for the words “publication or distribution” substitute the words “publication and distribution”.

PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

## **REPORT**

Regulation 16(1) of the Draft Public Elections (Expenditure and Donations) (Jersey) Regulations 201- as lodged by PPC on 4th April 2011 (P.51/2011) requires PPC to publish election manifestos from all candidates and distribute these with an English language newspaper circulating in Jersey. The Regulation currently reads as follows –

### **16 Arrangements for publication and distribution of election material**

- (1) The Committee shall make arrangements for election material provided to it by a candidate to be published in or distributed with an English language newspaper circulating in Jersey.

If the Regulation is amended by this amendment it will read –

### **16 Arrangements for publication and distribution of election material**

- (1) The Committee shall make arrangements for election material provided to it by a candidate to be published and distributed in Jersey.

(There are also, as can be seen, minor consequential changes to other parts of Regulation 16).

The system of distributing information about candidates in the Jersey Evening Post was put in place for the 2008 elections and the 2010 senatorial by-election. An insert was printed in the newspaper which included photographs and information supplied by the candidates, as well as other information about the elections.

When the original Regulations on election expenses were first enacted in 2008, the then PPC had held discussions with Jersey Post about the possibility of circulating a booklet similar to the JEP insert to every household but, at that time, the limits on the size and weight of the booklet that Jersey Post would deliver, and the proposed cost, made this option impractical. During recent discussions with the agencies who tendered to work with PPC in running the proposed awareness campaign for this year's elections, it nevertheless became clear that Jersey Post has more recently introduced much more flexibility into the distribution system to every household, and the agencies all suggested that this method of distribution would reach a much greater proportion of the electorate and could also be more cost-effective. The initial indications from agencies have now been confirmed through a direct approach to Jersey Post, which has also confirmed that material circulated in this way would not necessarily have to be included in a plastic sleeve as is currently the case for many newsletters, etc. that are distributed by Jersey Post to every household.

The purpose of this amendment is to allow flexibility, so that PPC can use whichever distribution method is found to be the most effective nearer to the elections. By removing specific reference to 'an English language newspaper' PPC will either be able to distribute material to every household by using Jersey Post, or the insert will be published in the Jersey Evening Post if that still proves to be the best option.

### **Financial and manpower implications**

There are no financial and manpower implications arising from this amendment beyond those already set out in P.51/2011. It is, in fact, possible that an alternative method of distributing manifestos could be more cost-effective and there would therefore be some cost saving, although PPC would stress that its objective is to ensure that the information about candidates reaches the widest possible audience and cost alone should not be the determining factor.