

# Chairmen's Committee

## Record of Meeting

Date: 11th June 2013

Present	Deputy T.A Vallois, President Deputy S.G. Luce, Vice-President Senator S.C. Ferguson Deputy J.H. Young Deputy K.L. Moore
Apologies	Deputy J.M. Maçon
Absent	
In attendance	For item 3 only the following representatives from the States of Guernsey Review Committee:-  Deputy P. Harwood, Chairman Deputy M. Fallaize, Vice-Chairman Deputy M. Dorey Deputy G. St. Pier Mrs C. Smith Mr. T. Le Sueur, O.B.E.  Mrs K. Tremellen-Frost, Scrutiny Manager

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p><b>1. Minutes of previous meetings</b></p> <p>The records of the meetings held on 21st May 2013 were approved and signed.</p>	
<b>510/1(83)</b>	<p><b>2. Transfer of responsibilities from Economic Development Minister to Chief Minister: effect on Scrutiny.</b></p> <p>The Committee considered a paper prepared by the Vice-Chairman in respect of the above matter. The Committee recalled that the Chief Minister had made a statement to the States Assembly about the responsibility for Jersey Financial Services being transferred from the Economic Development Department to the Chief Minister's Department and for the responsibility for the Modernisation programme to be transferred from the Chief Minister to the Minister for Economic Development.</p> <p>The Committee noted P.75/2013 whereby a raft of Financial Services was to be transferred from the Economic Development Department to the Chief Minister's Department. Firstly there had been no consultation with either the Chairmen's Committee or the Corporate Services or Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panels prior to this being announced in the States and followed by a related proposition. This was of concern as no consideration had been given by the Executive to the impact on the workload of the Scrutiny Panels. It was noted that the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel had already got a heavy workload and scrutinising this important issue placed</p>	

	<p>too heavy a burden on this Panel. It was also noted that the matter had been discussed between the President and the Chief Minister and they had agreed that, for the purposes of scrutiny, these matters should remain with the Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel. There was some confusion as to how this could be managed given that matters in respect of such areas would, in the States, be referred to the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel in accordance with Standing Orders. It was agreed that the Chairmen's Committee, as the overarching body charged with keeping under review the operation of the scrutiny function, should take a formal approach through presenting comments on the Proposition.</p>	
<b>510/1(79)</b>	<p><b>3. Departmental Workflow template</b></p> <p>The Committee recalled that this template had been discussed at the meeting of 18th December 2012 and it had been agreed that it would be rolled out across all Departments. The Committee agreed that where it had been completed it had worked really well and was saving time in the longer term as Panels were being kept up to date which meant fewer questions. However, there had been a number of Departments who had declined to complete the template and advised their respective Panels to consult the Departmental Business Plans. The Committee was extremely disappointed with this and discussed the principles of good governance. The Committee agreed that the President should attend on a CMB meeting to explain about the benefits of the template in relation to the principles of governance, accountability and transparency.</p>	
<b>510/1(82)</b>	<p><b>4. States of Guernsey Review Committee on Machinery of Government</b></p> <p>The Committee welcomed members of the States of Guernsey Review Committee to consider the structure of each of the Island's legislatures and to explore views as to which areas were working well and which weren't.</p>	
	<p><b>5. Panel Activity Reports</b></p> <p>The Committee noted the Scrutiny Panels' Activity Reports.</p>	
<b>23.04.12 Item 18 513/37(3)</b>	<p><b>6. Minister for External Affairs: Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel</b></p> <p>It was noted that the report on the above review would be presented shortly.</p>	
<b>514/1(37)</b>	<p><b>7. Bordeaux – visit of Scrutiny Officer with Executive Officers.</b></p> <p>It was noted that the Scrutiny Officer supporting the Environment Scrutiny Panel would be travelling to Bordeaux with a delegation of Executive Officers to undertake a fact-finding visit to an asbestos disposal facility. He would report back and it was intended that there would be Panel follow-up.</p>	
<b>23.04.13 Item 12 512/18</b>	<p><b>8. Canbedone – Public Accounts Committee</b></p> <p>The response had been received, however it was a response from the Minister for Economic Development. The responses of the Treasurer of the States had also been included within this response. There were some serious concerns about this as the role of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) was generally to hold Accounting Officers to account rather than Ministers. Recognising that Officers could not present responses to the States, the PAC had expected Accounting Officers responses to come back to the Committee rather than to be presented to the States in a Minister's name. It being in a Minister's name risked politicising the officials. The PAC could, of course, make the responses public by presenting them to the States in its own name.</p>	

	<p>It was noted that confusion had probably grown over some time in respect of these responses as, at one time, a former PAC did question Ministers and hold them to account.</p> <p>It was also noted that the revised guidelines included a section whereby it was made clear that responses to PAC reports (where recommendations have been made to Accounting Officers) should be directly to the PAC and not through a political body: namely Ministers.</p> <p>It was further noted that the majority of recommendations had been accepted but the findings heavily criticised. As the recommendations stemmed from the findings, this seemed nonsensical and would be investigated further.</p>	
	<p><b>9. Light refreshments for lunchtime meetings.</b></p> <p>The Committee noted correspondence from the Chairman, PPC in respect of the fact that Scrutiny/PAC would now be able to order light refreshments (sandwiches/fruit) for scheduled working lunches.</p>	
<p><b>21.05.13 Item 8 510/1(3)</b></p>	<p><b>9. Questioning Training</b></p> <p>The Committee noted that dates had been identified, Members informed as to their groups and all organisational arrangements made.</p>	
	<p><b>10. Future meetings</b></p> <p>9th July 2013 – meeting 9.30am-11.30am (Comptroller and Auditor General to give a brief presentation 11.00am – 11.30am in respect of her office, her work and her plans for working closely with Scrutiny whilst retaining the necessary independence of her office.)</p>	