

Public Accounts Committee

Record of Meeting

Date: 23rd August 2010

Meeting No: 42

Present	Senator B.E. Shenton (Chairman) Connétable J.M. Refault (Vice-Chairman) Senator A. Breckon Senator J. Perchard Mr. M. Magee Mr K. Keen
Apologies	Mr. C. Swinson O.B.E. – Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) Mr A. Fearn
Absent	
In attendance	Ms. M. Pardoe, Public Accounts Committee Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Records of meetings</p> <p>The record of the meeting of the 26th July 2010 was agreed as a true account of events.</p>	
<p>Item A2 26.07.10 512/7(8)</p>	<p>2. Jersey Heritage Trust</p> <p>The Committee noted the response of the Privileges and Procedures Committee in relation to the above Committee report.</p> <p>It was noted that the Chairman had granted a time extension to the Education Sport and Culture Department and Chief Ministers Department so that they could adequately respond to the Committee recommendations pertinent to them.</p>	
<p>Item A5 26.07.10 512/9(8)</p>	<p>3. Procurement</p> <p>The Committee discussed the issue of procurement in advance of a Public Hearing with the Deputy Chief Executive – Chief Officer for Resources.</p>	
<p>Item A6 26.07.10 512/8(8)</p>	<p>4. Financial Report and Accounts 2009</p> <p>The Committee recalled its Public Hearing with the Chief Executive on the 16th August 2010 in light of the above review. The Committee considered that the main issue raised was the overarching difficulty of assigning accountability for States Spending. The Committee recalled that the Chief Executive had indicated that Chief Officers could advise Ministers, but that ultimately the decisions were the Ministers' alone. Therefore a Minister could ignore advice from his Officers. Members considered that one remedy for this could be the publication of the civil servants' advice on various issues, so that the public could be made aware of Ministers ignoring advice.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the Strategy Development Manager for Economic Development had responded to its request for further information regarding grants, by suggesting that the Committee be more specific in identifying which grants it wished to examine. The Committee agreed that this was reasonable and resolved to identify</p>	

	three or for examples and agree the final list by electronic mail.	
Item A3 26.07.10 512(16)	5. Historical Child Abuse Enquiry The Committee noted the receipt of a letter from the Minister for Home Affairs dated 13 th August 2010, which explained why the Committee had not been given sight of the above audit before it was made public. The Committee questioned the value of the numerous consultant reports produced for the States of Jersey. Members resolved to write to the Chief Officer of each Department in order to request a list of all consultant reports commissioned and produced from 2008 to date, as well as details of the associated costs. The Committee expressed its concern that such information was not already readily available on the States website. It was also noted that if external consultants wrote reports it effectively distanced Chief Officers from accountability. It was also questioned why more consultant reports were not produced locally, and that this could be considered a procurement issue.	MP
Item A7 26.07.10 512(17)	6. Public Employees Contributory Retirement Scheme (PECRS) The Committee noted receipt of a letter from the Chairman of the PECRS Committee of Management dated 17 th August 2010.	
	7. Future Meetings The Committee noted that its next scheduled meeting was at 12.30pm on 27 th September 2010 in the Blampied Room, States Building. The Committee also noted and agreed the meeting dates for 2011.	

Signed

Date:



27th September 2010

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 Senator B.E. Shenton
 Chairman, Public Accounts Committee