

KS/SC/011

PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

(24th Meeting)

11th January 2016**PART A (non-exempt)**(Business conducted via electronic mail)

All members were present, with the exception of Deputy J.A. Martin of St. Helier and Deputy S.M. Brée of St. Clement, from whom apologies had been received.

Connétable L. Norman of St. Clement, Chairman
 Connétable D.W. Mezbourian of St. Lawrence
 Connétable C.H. Taylor of St. John
 Deputy S.Y. Mézec of St. Helier
 Senator P.F.C. Ozouf

In attendance -

L.M. Hart, Deputy Greffier of the States
 K.L. Slack, Clerk to the Privileges and Procedures Committee

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A only.

Transcripts of
 ‘in camera’
 debates:
 release to the
 Jersey
 Independent
 Care Inquiry
 (P.155/2015) –
 amendment.
 1032(6)

A1 The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. B1 of 14th December 2015, received and considered a draft amendment to the proposition of Deputy M.R. Higgins of St. Helier, entitled P.155/2015 – Transcripts of ‘in camera’ debates: release to Independent Jersey Care Inquiry.

The Committee recalled that, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 160(4), a decision of the States was required to make public a transcript of any part of a meeting that was conducted ‘in camera’.

The Committee noted that Deputy Higgins’ proposition only requested the agreement of the States to release the relevant transcripts to the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry (IJCI) ‘in accordance with the Inquiry’s protocols’. It was anticipated that if the States agreed to the release of the transcripts to the IJCI, the latter would make them publicly available on its website as evidence received.

The Committee recalled that, at its meeting of 14th December 2015, it had given careful consideration to the principle of releasing the transcripts of debates that had been held ‘in camera’. It had agreed that when members spoke during such debates they had a legitimate expectation that what they said would not subsequently be made public. It had been felt that members would be reluctant to express themselves freely if the transcripts of ‘in camera’ debates were routinely publicised. However, it had been decided, on balance, that there were stronger arguments in favour of making the transcripts public in this particular case and considered that it would be wrong in principle for ‘in camera’ transcripts to be made public by the IJCI if they were not also made available by the States Assembly. It had been agreed that it was important that the Assembly should remain in control of its own transcripts.

To that end, the Committee approved the amendment, which inserted the words “and made public by the Assembly at the same time” after the words “in accordance with the Inquiry’s protocols” in each of the sub-paragraphs (a)(i) to (v) in paragraph (a) of page 2 of P. 155/2015. It requested that the amendment be lodged ‘*au Greffe*’ for consideration by the States at its meeting on 19th January 2016.