

Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

Record of Meeting

Date: 26th June 2013

Meeting No: 93

Present	Senator S.C. Ferguson, Chairman Deputy J.G. Reed, Vice-Chairman Deputy R.J. Rondel
Apologies	Connétable D.J. Murphy Deputy S. Power
Absent	
In attendance	Miss S. McKee, Scrutiny Officer Mr. W. Millow, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
513/1(1)	<p>1. Panel Membership</p> <p>The Panel recalled that at its last meeting it was agreed that the Chairman would correspond with Deputy Power in order to determine more precisely how long his capacity to attend meetings might be effected. In this regard the Chairman advised Members that Deputy Power would be available again to attend meetings from the beginning of July 2013 onwards.</p>	
	<p>2. Records of Meetings</p> <p>The Panel approved the records of the meetings held on 10th and 12th June 2013 [Public and Private]. The records were signed accordingly.</p>	
<p>12/06/13 Item 3 513/37(4)</p>	<p>3. Public Finances Law</p> <p>The Panel was advised that Senator P.F.C. Ozouf, Minister for Treasury and Resources, had agreed to defer the debate on <i>Draft Public Finances (Amendment No.4) (Jersey) Law 201- (P.73/2013)</i> until the first States sitting after the summer recess. It was recalled that the Panel had asked for a deferral due to requested information not being received on time from the Department and there was therefore a risk that the deadline date for the report would not be achieved.</p> <p>The Panel recalled that both the Minister for Treasury and Resources, and Senator I.J. Gorst, Chief Minister, had provided responses to the written questions that had been submitted by the Panel. However, it was noted that the Chief Minister had subsequently withdrawn his response with the assurance that alternative comments would be provided to the Panel as soon as possible. The Panel was advised that this had yet to be received.</p> <p>The Panel was advised that some of the information requested from the Department of Treasury and Resources for its review had not yet been received. As a result, the Scrutiny Officer was requested to draft a letter to the Minister listing the outstanding information in order to</p>	SM

	ascertain when the Panel could expect to receive each item. It was further advised that the Panel was due to receive the first draft of the Expert Advisor's report by the end of the week. Any information received from the Departments after such time would be incorporated into a second draft.	
12/06/13 Item 5 513/1(41)	4. Modernisation Programme The Panel noted receipt of information provided by the Chief Minister's Department about the individuals leading on the various work-streams of the Modernisation Programme. The Panel agreed that further information regarding the structure of responsibility for the work-streams and, in particular, the reporting line to Departments would be beneficial. The Scrutiny Officers were therefore requested to look into the matter.	WM
12/06/13 Item 6 513/39(9)	5. Minister for External Relations The Panel noted receipt of the Ministerial Response to <i>Minister for External Relations</i> (SR9/2013). It was further noted that the Ministerial Response would be formally presented to the States on 27th June 2013. The Panel noted that, in response to its recommendation that the States Assembly should not be asked to approve proposals for a Minister for External Relations until wider issues regarding the Machinery of Government had been addressed, the Council of Ministers had agreed to re-schedule the debate on <i>Draft States of Jersey (Minister for External Relations) (Jersey) Regulations 201- (P.67/2013)</i> to 10th September 2013. The Panel evaluated the process followed during the review. It was noted that work on the review had been affected by the fact that more work had been required on the Starter Home Deposit Loan Scheme review than had initially been planned. The Panel was advised that the review would have benefited if it had been possible to gather more evidence and to receive further witnesses at Public Hearings. It was agreed that, in future, the Panel would need to be mindful of allowing sufficient time for the consideration of evidence and for follow-up work to be undertaken. It was further noted that, when factoring Scrutiny into their timetable, Ministers should consider the States summer recess and the implications of this break on the proposed timeframe for reviews. The Panel noted that expenditure on the review had amounted to £651.72.	
08/05/13 Item 12 513/1(40)	6. Quarterly Public Hearing with the Minister for Treasury and Resources The Panel noted that its next Quarterly Public Hearing with the Minister for Treasury and Resources had been moved to 9:30am on 15th July 2013. The Panel agreed that, going forward, it would prioritise the topic areas it wished to cover during public hearings, thereby allowing more time to drill down on particular subject areas. During this discussion, the Panel also noted the possibility of sending written questions to Ministers on topic areas not covered during public hearings, when appropriate.	

	<p>Consideration was given to the question plan and amendments were agreed, which the Scrutiny Officers were requested to enact and circulate to the Panel before its next meeting. During the course of this consideration, the Panel noted that the Chief Minister had recently announced an action plan regarding transparency on beneficial ownership of companies. The Panel requested that a copy of the action plan be circulated.</p>	<p>WM</p> <p>WM</p>
<p>12/06/13 Item 9</p> <p>513/36</p>	<p>7. Population and Migration</p> <p>The Panel received an update in respect of Population and Migration matters and considered its subsequent course of action. This part of the meeting was held in private session under Paragraph 3.2.1(a)(xiv) of the <i>Code of Practice on Public Access to Official Information</i> and a private record was therefore taken.</p>	
<p>12/06/13 Item 7</p> <p>513/38</p>	<p>8. Starter Home Deposit Loan Scheme</p> <p>The Panel recalled its agreement to request an update from the Chief Minister's Department in respect of when the Starter Home Deposit Loan Scheme would be introduced and how potential applicants would be informed. The Panel was advised that the requested information had not yet been received. Subsequently, the Panel requested that the matter be followed up.</p>	<p>WM</p>
<p>12/06/13 Item 11</p> <p>513/35</p>	<p>9. Medium Term Financial Plan</p> <p>The Panel received an update on follow-up work to the MTFP review. The Panel noted that, following an agreement at its previous meeting, a request had been sent to the Minister for Treasury and Resources for progress reports in respect of Recommendations 8, 9 and 10. The Panel was advised that, as of yet, no response had been received. In relation to Recommendation 9, the Panel noted that the Minister had recently presented <i>Pension Increase Debt: Options for Early Repayment</i> (R.63/2013) and that the report was pertinent to potential uses of the Strategic Reserve.</p> <p>The Panel also noted that a copy of the most recent Quarterly Finance Report had been requested from the Department of Treasury and Resources but had not yet been received. It was recalled that the Minister had undertaken to provide the Panel with Quarterly Finance Reports during the MTFP review. The Scrutiny Officer was requested to inquire with the Department as to why reports had not been made available to the Panel.</p> <p>In regards to its future work programme, the Panel agreed that it would undertake an end of term review in respect of the MTFP.</p>	<p>WM</p>
<p>12/06/13 Item 12</p> <p>513/1(47)</p>	<p>10. 2014 Budget</p> <p>The Panel noted that the Briefing on the 2014 Budget had been moved to 11:30am on 15th July 2013.</p> <p>The Panel received an update in respect of <i>Draft Amendment (No.21) of the Standing Orders of the States of Jersey</i> (P.65/2013). The Panel recalled its request for the Scrutiny Officer to consult the Greffier of the States regarding the potential implications of extending the lodging period for draft Budgets for future Budgets, in particular during years in which an election would take place. The Panel was advised that such</p>	

	<p>advice had been sought and it was apparent that the proposed amendment to Standing Orders would not in itself affect this position. It was noted, however, that the draft 2015 Budget could potentially be debated by the current States Assembly once the elections in 2014 had taken place but before newly-elected Members had taken their seat. Recalling that such a situation had arisen in respect of the draft 2012 Budget and that concerns had been expressed during the relevant debate, it was agreed to question the Minister for Treasury and Resources on the matter.</p>	WM
<p>12/06/13 Item 10 513/1(41)</p>	<p>11. Work Programme</p> <p>The Panel received and noted an update in respect of its Work Programme for 2013 and 2014. It was agreed by the Panel that it would be beneficial to ascertain when States work would cease ahead of the 2014 elections in order that its work programme for that year could be planned. In respect of its general work programme the Panel identified Human Resources and, in particular, the role and authority of the States Employment Board as a potential review topic in due course. It was also noted that a review in respect of Information Technology would be beneficial, whilst the Panel recalled its previous interest in undertaking a review of the Legislative Process.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that requests would be made to the Chief Minister's Department and the Department of Treasury and Resources for updates on the delivery of their 2013 Business Plans. It was further agreed that the Panel would request advance notice of both Departments' Work Programmes for 2014 in order to assist in the development of its own work programme.</p>	<p>WM/ SM</p> <p>WM/ SM</p> <p>WM/ SM</p>
	<p>12. Future Meetings</p> <p>The Panel noted that its next scheduled meeting would take place at 9:30am on 10th July 2013.</p> <p>It was further noted that the next Quarterly Hearing with the Chief Minister would now not take place until after the summer recess.</p>	