

Chairmen's Committee

Record of Meeting

Date: 1st March 2016

Present	Deputy J.A.N. Le Fondré, President and Chairman, Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel Deputy L.M.C. Doublet, Vice-President and Chairman, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel Deputy A.D. Lewis, Chairman, Public Accounts Committee Deputy R. Renouf, Chairman, Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel Deputy S.M. Brée, Chairman, Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel Deputy D. Johnson, Chairman, Environment, Housing and Technical Services Scrutiny Panel (Items 1-6 (6 in part))
Apologies	
Absent	
In attendance	Mr T. Oldham, Scrutiny Manager

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Records of meetings</p> <p>The Committee approved the records of its meetings held on 26th January and 4th and 10th February 2016, which were signed accordingly by the President.</p>	
26.01.16 Item 2	<p>2. Activity Reports</p> <p>The Committee noted Panel and Public Accounts Committee (PAC) activity reports.</p>	
26.01.16 Item 3	<p>3. Privileges and Procedures Committee: update</p> <p>The Committee considered a briefing paper on the deliberations of the Privileges and Procedures Committee.</p>	
08.12.15 Item 1 510/1(5)	<p>4. Protocol for Engagement between Scrutiny Panels and the Executive</p> <p>The current status of the draft Scrutiny and PAC Protocols for Engagement, the draft Scrutiny and PAC Proceedings Codes of Practice, and associated amendments to legislation were considered by the Committee. It was noted that the Scrutiny Protocol had now been distributed to individual Panels for consultation. Feedback was scheduled to be submitted to the Scrutiny Manager by the end of March, to enable consideration by the Committee at its meeting on 19th April.</p> <p>It was noted that drafting of the PAC Protocol was advancing, but drafting of the two Proceedings Codes had yet to begin in earnest. It was agreed that the Scrutiny Manager would liaise with the President, and Chairman of PAC to continue to progress the documents.</p> <p>The Committee discussed actions relating to the powers of Panels/PAC. It agreed to seek the assistance of the Law Draftsman in relation to Regulation 8 of the <i>States of Jersey (Powers, Privileges and Immunities)(Scrutiny Panels, PAC and PPC) Regulations 2006</i>. It</p>	<p>TO</p> <p>JLF/AL /TO</p>

	<p>was intended to amend this Regulation to extend immunity from prosecution, on the basis of evidence provided to a Panel, beyond just the witness to include ‘any other person’. The Law Draftsman’s assistance would also be sought with a view to revising the same Regulations to enable Scrutiny Panels to place all witnesses on oath, similar to the situation for Select Committees in the United Kingdom.</p>	TO
<p>26.01.16 Item 5</p> <p>510/1(83)</p>	<p>5. Panel Names and Remits</p> <p>The Committee considered feedback from Panels regarding proposed changes to names and remits, along with advice from the Scrutiny Manager and Greffier of the States that it remained advisable for amendments to be made following the States’ approval of the Transfer of Functions Regulations.</p> <p>The Committee was advised that such change was particularly important in relation to helping public, stakeholder and media engagement with Scrutiny, by providing Panels with clear and easily recognised identities. Within the States, it would also provide clarity as to individual Panel responsibilities.</p> <p>It was noted that agreeing the principle that Panel names should incorporate, where practical, the terminology used to identify Ministers, could offer a simple, widely understood means to achieve this aim. This approach would also enable Scrutiny to readily accommodate future name changes. Additionally, the Committee was invited to consider agreeing that it might be good practice in future for the Chairmen’s Committee to automatically seek to undertake such a ‘housekeeping’ exercise when changes to Ministerial names or responsibilities were made, via the necessary Proposition to the States Assembly and/or other associated actions.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that Panels should be named in accordance with the principles and practice as established above. It was noted that no change was therefore required for the Education and Home Affairs or Health and Social Security Panels. The name and remit of the Public Accounts Committee would remain unchanged. It was agreed that the Economic Affairs Panel should remain as presently named, as this most effectively and clearly captured its wide remit whilst also part referencing the title of the Minister within its area of responsibility. A revised name of Environment, Housing and Infrastructure would update the present Environment, Housing and Technical Services Panel. For the sake of clarity to external stakeholders and engagement, the official title of the Chairmen’s Committee would be proposed as Scrutiny Chairmen’s Committee.</p> <p>It was agreed that further consideration would be given by the Corporate Services Panel to amending its name in line with the agreed position, which would be reported back to the Committee.</p> <p>In addition, the Committee agreed that the term ‘Panel’ should be replaced with ‘Committee’ to more precisely reflect the Panels’ role and status and the recognised terminology used in many other Parliaments.</p> <p>Regarding Panel remits, the Committee agreed that it would propose associated changes to Standing Orders, and approved its suggested framework accordingly. These changes should be brought to the</p>	<p>TO</p> <p>JLF/SB /TO</p> <p>TO</p> <p>TO</p>

	<p>States Assembly via the necessary Proposition in conjunction with amendments to Panel names. An accompanying framework denoting which Panel was therefore responsible for holding Quarterly Hearings with which Minister, or Assistant Minister as required, was also approved. This would be published for information purposes.</p> <p>It was agreed the advice of the Law Draftsman should be sought in order to progress any necessary law drafting relating to the actions agreed.</p>	TO
<p>10.02.16 Item 2</p> <p>511/2/1</p>	<p>6. Residential Property Transactions Review Panel</p> <p>It was noted that an invitation from the President to all non-Executive Members regarding membership of the Panel had not led to any expressions of interest beyond that registered previously by Deputy A.D. Lewis, Deputy R. Renouf and Deputy D. Johnson. The membership of the aforementioned Deputies was confirmed, and it was agreed that they would convene the first meeting of the Panel to progress scoping of the Review, whilst continuing to seek up to two additional Members.</p> <p>The Chairmanship of the Panel was discussed, with particular consideration given to potential perception concerns that could be raised by stakeholders resulting from the topic's previously high media profile. The Committee agreed that no actual conflict of interest existed and that if any perception issues were to arise from previous media coverage, they were likely be insubstantial. The Committee approved the appointment of Deputy D. Johnson as Chairman of the Panel. Mindful of their dual role in relation to their membership of the Committee and the Review Panel, the members of the sub-Panel abstained from voting.</p>	AL/RR/DJ
<p>26.01.16 Item 6</p> <p>510/3(9)</p>	<p>7. Use of social media</p> <p>The Committee noted the additional opportunities presented by the new Facebook page and existing Twitter account to advertise Scrutiny Reviews. It was agreed that Panels would give consideration to these opportunities, alongside the traditional media, when scoping Reviews.</p>	All
<p>26.01.16 Item 8</p> <p>510/1(3)</p>	<p>8. Training</p> <p>The Committee considered feedback from Panels regarding future training opportunities. It was agreed that an offer received from the Attorney General to provide further questioning training should be pursued. The Committee agreed that it would be most beneficial if the training could focus on techniques specifically relevant to its Committee/Panel hearings, including incorporating how Members could question effectively as a team as well as individuals.</p> <p>It was noted that consideration was being given by the Environment, Housing and Technical Services Panel and the PAC to undertaking training visits to other jurisdictions. Such visits had previously been of high value to Panels, and included meetings with Committee Members and Chairpersons and observation of evidence sessions of Parliamentary Committees with a view to learning from good practice. Panels would, however, be extremely mindful of seeking to ensure good value for money from such visits.</p> <p>It was also agreed that Members would seek opportunities to observe each other's Hearings in order to share feedback and good practice.</p>	<p>TO</p> <p>All</p>

	9. Financial Report 2015 A financial report on overall expenditure by Panels in 2015 was noted.	
	10. Future Meetings It was noted that the Committee was next scheduled to meet on 19th April at 9.30am, Le Capelain Room, States Building.	