

# Chairmen's Committee

## Record of Meeting

Date: 8th December 2015

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 S.M. Brée, Chairman, Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel Deputy R. Renouf, Chairman, Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel Deputy A.D. Lewis, Chairman, Public Accounts Committee Deputy D. Johnson, Vice-Chairman, Environment, Housing and Technical Services Scrutiny Panel
Apologies	Connétable A.S. Crowcroft, Chairman, Environment, Housing and Technical Services Scrutiny Panel
Absent	
In attendance	Dr M. Egan, Greffier of the States designate Mr T. Oldham, Scrutiny Manager Mr S. Spottiswoode, Scrutiny Officer (Items 1-4)

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<b>1. Records of meetings</b>  The Committee approved the records of its meetings held on 6th and 11th November 2015, which were signed accordingly by the President.	
11.11.15 Item 2	<b>2. Activity Reports</b>  The Committee noted the Panel and Public Accounts Committee activity reports.	
11.11.15 Item 3	<b>3. Privileges and Procedures Committee: update</b>  The Committee considered a briefing paper on the deliberations of the above Committee.	
11.11.15 Item 4  510/1(5)	<b>4. Code of Practice for engagement, for the purposes of Scrutiny, between elected Members conducting Scrutiny and Ministers and Assistant Ministers</b>  The Committee noted the 'Protocol between the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Government in relation to the handling of Committee business', and received an updated draft of its own 'Code of Practice for engagement, for the purposes of Scrutiny, between elected Members conducting Scrutiny and Ministers and Assistant Ministers'. It recalled that in addition to this Code, it was responsible for the development of three further related Codes of Practice. The Committee considered whether having four separate Codes of Practice relating to the Scrutiny function/PAC was confusing, and agreed to clarify the situation by adopting the following terminology to provide a clearer distinction between the 'engagement' and the 'proceedings' documents:  • <b>Protocol for Engagement Between Scrutiny Panels and the</b>	

	<p><b>Executive</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Protocol for Engagement Between the PAC and the Executive</b></li> <li>• <b>Scrutiny Proceedings: Code of Practice</b></li> <li>• <b>PAC Proceedings: Code of Practice</b></li> </ul> <p>The Committee received further advice in consideration of the draft action points agreed at its previous meeting, in relation primarily to the powers of Scrutiny Panels and compliance with the draft Scrutiny Protocol. The following points of principle to steer future drafting of the Protocol and associated actions were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The power of Panels to summons individuals and papers should remain as presently established</li> <li>• The Protocol should govern not only the actions of Members of Scrutiny, but also those of Executive Members on matters relevant to engagement with Scrutiny</li> <li>• Regulation 8 of the States of Jersey (Powers, Privileges and Immunities)(Scrutiny Panels, PAC and PPC) Regulations 2006 should be extended to provide immunity from prosecution, on the basis of evidence provided to a Panel, beyond just the witness to include 'any other person'. This would be in keeping with the situation for UK Select Committees</li> <li>• The States of Jersey (Powers, Privileges and Immunities)(Scrutiny Panels, PAC and PPC) Regulations 2006 should be revised to enable Scrutiny Panels to place witnesses on oath</li> <li>• A procedural framework for the event of an alleged infringements of the Protocol, by Scrutiny or Executive Members, should be established in the wording of the compliance section of the Protocol</li> </ul>	<b>TO</b>
<p><b>11.11.15 Item 5 510/3(9)</b></p>	<p><b>5. Use of social media</b></p> <p>The Committee noted that the States Greffe had begun work to establish a 'States Assembly' Facebook page during the first quarter of 2016. This would include content from Scrutiny Panels.</p>	<b>TO</b>
<p><b>511/1(63)</b></p>	<p><b>6. Domestic Property Transactions Review Panel</b></p> <p>The Committee agreed that scoping should be undertaken of a proposed Review Panel regarding domestic property transactions. This would be led by the proposer of the Review, the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. The Committee noted that matters of resources, membership and Chairmanship would also require further consideration, and might be informed by the scoping process.</p>	<b>AL</b>
	<p><b>7. Future Meetings</b></p> <p>It was noted that the Committee's next meeting date was 26th January 2016, 9.30am-11.30am, Le Capelain Room, States Building.</p>	