

	States employees to contact Scrutiny Panels independently, without having to go through their Chief Officer.	
Item 5 14.10.09 516/22(8)	<p>4. Higher Education Fees Review</p> <p>The Panel noted that the call for evidence for this review had been issued. It was further noted that the Department for Education, Sport and Culture was currently undertaking a review into Higher Education, and the Panel therefore discussed the way forward regarding its review of this issue. The Panel requested the officer to contact the Department regarding the outcome of its meeting on Monday, where the topic was discussed, as well as requesting the Minister's timetable for the undertaking of this review. It was agreed that once the Panel had this information Deputy Tadier would arrange for the Sub-Panel to meet to discuss the preferred way forward, and agreed that this may include arranging a meeting with the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture to discuss this issue.</p>	EL
	<p>5. Topic Proposals</p> <p>a) The Panel noted a topic proposal from Mr Darius Pearce regarding a survey he would be undertaking concerning the Code of Conduct of the Law Society of Jersey as well as the levels of satisfaction between legal aid and full fee paying clients locally. It was agreed that this did not fall within the Panel's remit, and the Panel therefore requested a letter to be sent to HM Attorney General asking for clarification regarding whether he is responsible for the legal aid policy in conjunction with the Law Society, and if not, to ascertain who is. A response would then be sent to Mr Pearce accordingly.</p> <p>b) The Panel noted a topic proposal from Mrs Dawn Evetts regarding the control and use of fireworks. The Panel requested a letter to be sent to the Comité des Connétables bringing it to their attention. It was further requested that a letter be sent to Mrs Evetts explaining this course of action, and confirming that although the Panel appreciates her concerns, as a result of its hectic work schedule it would not be possible to review this issue.</p>	EL/SP EL/SP
	<p>6. Panel Visits</p> <p>The Panel discussed whether it wished to undertake any local fact finding visits. It was agreed it wished to visit the new wing at HMP La Moye, and requested the officers to arrange this visit for the week commencing the 23rd November. The Panel agreed the focus of its visit should be on visiting the new wing and discussing any new programme developments at the prison, rather than undertaking a full tour of the prison.</p>	EL
	<p>7. Citizens Media</p> <p>It was noted that during a recent hearing of the Suspension Sub-Panel, notes were passed from members of the public to Panel Members. It was agreed that this practice should not occur in future. It was further noted that during the same Public Hearing session a member of the non-accredited media had spoken in an entirely inappropriate way to a member of the Sub-Panel and that this situation should never have arisen. The Panel noted that had a member of the accredited media spoken to a member of the Sub-Panel in the same way it would have more than likely led to some form of disciplinary action.</p>	

	<p>It was agreed that any further discussion regarding the issue of filming by members of the public and any associated problems should be left to the Committee that had been constituted by the Privileges and Procedures Committee to review this issue. The Panel discussed the makeup of the Panel and agreed that the balance was not appropriate, and that the Committee should more accurately reflect the backbencher and Scrutiny representation of the States and should include five members, rather than four. The Panel requested the Officers to draft a letter to the Privileges and Procedures Committee highlighting this issue.</p>	EL/SP
	<p>8. Letter from Minister for Education, Sport and Culture</p> <p>The Panel noted the letter from the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture regarding the Panel's amendments to the 2010 Annual Business Plan. It was further noted that as the Minister's response had not clarified how the independent element of these reviews would be ensured a follow-up letter had been sent to the Minister requesting clarification of this issue.</p>	
<p>Item 9 14.10.09 516/1(44)</p>	<p>9. 2010 Annual Work Programme</p> <p>The Panel discussed its work programme for 2010. With regard to the Home Affairs Department, the Panel requested clarification regarding when the Minister for Home Affairs would be bringing forward legislation regarding limits to the amount of ammunition that can be bought by gun carriers, in addition to the timetable for bringing forward wheel clamping legislation.</p> <p>It was agreed that in 2010 the Panel wished to undertake reviews of Political Education; Vetting and Barring; Discrimination Legislation; and Succession Planning in the Police Service. It was further agreed that dependent on the Panel's workload it may wish to undertake reviews of the Youth Service and literacy and numeracy levels in primary aged pupils. It was additionally noted that the issue of school league tables may be of interest to the Panel in the future.</p> <p>The Panel requested the Officers to draft its work programme accordingly, in order for it to be sent to both the Minister for Home Affairs and the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture, as required by the Code of Practice for Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee.</p>	<p>EL/SP</p> <p>EL/SP</p>
	<p>10. Public Policy Exchange Conference</p> <p>The Panel noted documentation regarding a conference entitled 'Minding the Gap: Recruitment and Retention in Children's Services'. It was noted that the content of this conference would be more applicable to the Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel.</p>	
	<p>11. Forthcoming Propositions</p> <p>The Panel noted forthcoming propositions lodged au Greffe pertinent to its remit.</p>	
	<p>12. Ministerial Decisions</p> <p>The Panel noted receipt of recent Ministerial Decisions pertinent to its remit.</p>	
	<p>13. Questions to Ministers</p>	

	<p>The Panel noted that the Minister for Economic Development and the Chief Minister would take questions without notice at the States sitting of the 17th November 2009, and that the Ministers for Education, Sport and Culture and Health and Social Services would take questions without notice at the States sitting of 1st December 2009.</p>	
	<p>14. Future Meetings</p> <p>The Panel noted that the next Panel Meeting would take place on the 16th December at 9.30am in the Blampied Room.</p>	
	<p>15. Any Other Business</p> <p>a. The Panel discussed the recent media headlines regarding the additional £800,000 that had been provided to the Jersey Heritage Trust. It was requested for a letter to be sent to the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture requesting clarification regarding where the additional £800,000 grant had come from in terms of the Department's overall budget.</p> <p>b. The Panel agreed it wished to hold a Panel Christmas lunch on Tuesday 15th December at 12.30pm. Deputy Pitman agreed to identify a restaurant.</p>	<p>EL/SP</p>

Signed

Date:

R. Le Bris

10/2/10

Chairman
Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel