

STATES OF JERSEY



LEGISLATION ADVISORY PANEL: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

**Lodged au Greffe on 17th March 2006
by the Chief Minister**

STATES GREFFE

PROPOSITION

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion –

to appoint the following persons as members of the Legislation Advisory Panel –

- Senator James Leslie Perchard
- Senator Ben Edward Shenton
- The Connétable of St. Clement
- The Deputy of St. John

CHIEF MINISTER

REPORT

1. In July 2002 the States approved a proposition of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning the 'Machinery of Government: Proposed Departmental Structure and Transitional Arrangements' (P.70/2002, as amended). In approving this proposition, the States agreed that the Legislation Committee should remain in place during the transitional period, and that consultation should take place with the Legislation Committee in order to establish how its functions should be carried out once the ministerial system came into effect.
2. This consultation subsequently took place, and it was agreed that matters which were the responsibility of the Legislation Committee should be transferred to the Chief Minister, and that an Advisory Panel should be appointed to advise the Chief Minister on these matters. It was also agreed that this body should be chaired by an Assistant Minister and should consist of States members drawn from both the executive and non-executive arms of the Assembly, including representation from the Comité des Connétables (for the purposes of advancing parochially important legislation).
3. As reported in the recently published report on 'Ministerial Responsibilities: Ministers and Assistant Ministers' (R.23/2006), I am pleased to advise members that one of my two Assistant Ministers, Connétable Ken Vibert, has agreed to be the Chairman of this new Advisory Panel.
4. Although there is no requirement to bring the appointment of members to the States, I feel that there would be benefit in doing so, particularly as the membership of the Panel will be drawn from both the executive and non-executive arms of the Assembly. I am pleased to report that four States members have been approached in this connection, and all of them have indicated that they would be willing for their names to go forward. They are as follows –
 - Senator James Perchard
 - Senator Ben Shenton
 - Connétable Derek Gray
 - Deputy Andrew Lewis
5. This group will include two members from the executive (Deputy Andrew Lewis, together with Connétable Ken Vibert), as well as representation from the Comité des Connétables (Connétables Derek Gray and Ken Vibert). I am particularly pleased that Connétable Gray has agreed to be nominated as a member, as he was previously the President of the Legislation Committee and will therefore be able to bring his experience and knowledge to the Panel. I would also like to thank the three recently-elected members (Senators James Perchard and Ben Shenton, together with Deputy Lewis) for agreeing to allow their names go forward for this particular role.
6. Subject to approval by the States, it is proposed that the Advisory Panel will meet on a regular basis to consider matters that were formerly dealt with by the Legislation Committee. These include legislation relating to the courts and court procedures, probate, wills and succession, and customary law. It is envisaged that any recommendations from the Advisory Panel will be forwarded to the Chief Minister and brought to the States as appropriate.

Financial and manpower implications

7. This proposition has no additional financial and manpower implications. The Advisory Panel will be supported by a Committee Clerk from the States Greffe, and will receive advice from the Attorney General and Law Draftsman, who will be invited to attend its meetings.