

Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Meeting No. 5

22nd February 2006
St. Mary's Parish Hall

Present Deputy G. P. Southern, Chairman
Connétable M. K. Jackson
Deputy J. A. Martin
Deputy K. C. Lewis
Apologies Deputy A. Breckon
Absent
In attendance C. Le Quesne, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
1.	<p>Minutes of the Meetings of 8th February 2006</p> <p>The minutes would be signed at a subsequent meeting following a minor amendment.</p>	
2.	<p>Fulfilment</p> <p>The Chairman provided the Panel with an oral report, following a meeting with an operator of a fulfilment company. The key issues of concern raised in that meeting were discussed and noted to be -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The differences in structure of the various companies as outlined in the current policy (date of approval or otherwise to be confirmed by the officer); (ii) The operation of VAT collection and a pre paid scheme operated on the Island to expedite the postal system and avoid Customs hub centre delays in the UK; (iii) The Oxera report and its consultation process; (iv) Staff employed - skills base and diversity; (v) Postal operator and fulfilment company issues; (vi) Role of the Regulator <p>The Panel discussed the potential issues relating to the forthcoming incorporation of Jersey Post and the role of the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority within than context. It was noted that the Chairman had a forthcoming meeting with the JCRA to discuss competition and regulatory matters.</p> <p>Clarification on the statutory ability of JCRA to intervene was requested for the next meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that the view of Guernsey Post relating to the fulfilment business should be sought, together with an outline of its charging structure for volume fulfilment post. It was also requested that the views of French Authorities to the business be sought along with EU guidelines and VAT Agreements if any.</p>	<p>CLQ</p> <p>CLQ</p>

	<p>Details of meeting with HM Treasury Officials should be requested together with any notes of such meetings. Details of RUDL licences issued to fulfilment companies and a list of operating companies should be pursued.</p> <p>The Panel discussed issues relating to the introduction of 0/10 and the changing face of the Royal Mail and the opening up of competition in the United Kingdom Postal industry.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that it would benefit from visiting a fulfilment company operation and that it would be useful to see the Jersey Post Offshore Solutions Operations - the Officer was directed to take the necessary action.</p>	CLQ
3.	<p>Scrutiny Event</p> <p>The Panel received an oral report from the Chairman following the recent Chairmen's Committee meeting on the principle of running a forum or workshop to promote scrutiny to the wider public. The Chairman was tasked by his Panel to progress this issue with the Scrutiny Manager with a view to an event being arranged in May or June of 2006.</p> <p>The Panel also briefly discussed the role of Scrutiny and the differences in other jurisdictions where the process included recourse for members of the public through a petitions Committee. The Officer was requested to provide some outline information to the Panel on the Scottish Petitions Committee at its next meeting.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that if and when the Chairman was unavailable to attend a Chairmen's Committee meeting a member of the Panel would be delegated to attend in his place.</p>	<p>Chairman</p> <p>CLQ</p>
4.	<p>Scrutiny Powers draft Projet</p> <p>The Panel examined the Draft States of Jersey (Powers, Privileges and Immunities) (Scrutiny panels, PAC and PPC) (Jersey) Regulations 200- and expressed some concern over the articles relating to the matter of challenge and the breadth and scope that such a challenge might bring. The Panel noted that any challenge would be referred back to the Privileges and Procedures Committee for a ruling and that no definitive time scale was included within the regulation. The Panel agreed that it would examine the draft more closely at its next meeting and report back to the Chairmen's Committee, with a view to proposing amendments to ensure that the Scrutiny function was not delayed or obstructed from undertaking its remit effectively.</p>	<p>Chairman CLEQ</p>
5.	<p>Internal Audit Report Agriculture</p> <p>The Panel noted the receipt of the internal audit report relating to The Agricultural Direct Financial Support Scheme and was content that, subject to confirmation that all actions had been completed, it would not wish to pursue any further investigation into the issue.</p> <p>The officer was requested to advise the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee accordingly of the Panels decision subsequent to that confirmation being received.</p>	<p>CLQ</p> <p>Chairman</p>

	In addition it was noted that the Chairman would meet with Professor Donald McQueen on the 6th or 7th March 2006 to discuss the Dairy Industry in Jersey. Times and venue would be confirmed in due course.	
6.	<p>Correspondence from Scott Le Cornu</p> <p>Luminar - the Panel considered email correspondence dated the 22nd February in connexion with introduction of a smoking ban in public eating areas and no apparent action on behalf of the Health and Social Services Department to respond to an appeal application. The Panel decided that it would not be appropriate to undertake a review into the matter however it would write to the Health Minister to ascertain how the appeal was dealt with and what action has been taken in the interim.</p>	GS and CLQ
7.	<p>Jersey Financial Services Commission</p> <p>The Panel requested that it be provided with copies of both the consultation papers issued in respect of fund investments.</p>	CLQ
8.	<p>School Milk</p> <p>The Panel considered the following papers in connexion with the possible review into School Milk Provision or the Dairy Industry -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of background information for school milk provision; Ministerial decision, correspondence and supporting act Exert from 'London Economics' report to DEFRA December 2005; UK News on school milk; Medical articles on school milk; Dr. S. New's report of the benefits of school milk; Memo to the Select Committee on Work and Pensions by the 'Milk for Schools' group; DEFRA response to 'Milk Development Committee' report 2002 ; Minutes of the former Economic Development Committee re school milk. <p>The Panel agreed that it would be in a better position to consider the focus of any dairy review it might undertake following its meetings with Professor McQueen and Kevin Keen, Jersey Dairy. The Panel did suggest that it would be more likely that any review that it did undertake would be more holistic in approach than just examining the impact of the cessation of school milk provision and funding. The Officer was directed to make the necessary meeting arrangements.</p>	CLQ
9.	Taxi Drivers Association	

	<p>The Panel welcomed a delegation of four taxi drivers from the Association to discuss the economic aspect of the service they provide to the community in particular to the Tourism and Business industries.</p> <p>Some of the challenges faced the drivers with regard to enforcement of regulations and the perceived lack thereof was discussed. The issues of progression through the trade were noted and the various licensing and plating arrangements were explained to the Panel. Issues of harbour and airport cover were considered in the meeting as were charges and the processes applied to increases.</p> <p>More diverse future transport methods recently discussed in the press were given some consideration. However, the key concern raised by the drivers was the lack of opportunity to meet with the Minister of Transport to discuss the challenges faced by the Taxi Drivers. The Panel, having listened to the delegation and noted its function in providing an essential service to the tourism and finance industries, agreed to lend its support to the Association in attempting to secure a meeting with the Transport Minister in the short term.</p>	<p>Chairman CLQ</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The Panel, in a change to the previously scheduled arrangements, decided that it would be appropriate to hold an additional meeting on the 27th February to discuss statutory issues raised in its present meeting and that it would hold both that and its next meeting in the States building, in a room to be arranged. The next previously notified meeting being scheduled on 8th March 2006.</p> <p>Officers were directed to make the necessary arrangements.</p>	<p>CLQ</p>

Signed

Date

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Chairman Deputy G. P. Southern
Economic Affairs Panel

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