

STATES OF JERSEY



COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY: CONFIDENTIAL FILES HELD BY STATES OF JERSEY POLICE ON STATES MEMBERS AND OTHERS (P.197/2009) – AMENDMENT

Lodged au Greffe on 20th November 2009
by Deputy J.B. Fox of St. Helier

STATES GREFFE

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AMENDMENT

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- (a) in paragraph (c) for the words “legally qualified ex-Judge or Queen’s Counsel”, substitute the words “respected local person such as a retired Jurat, Lawyer, Civil Servant or similar”;
- (b) in paragraph (d), for the words “from outside of the Island” substitute the words “from inside of the Island”.

DEPUTY J.B. FOX OF ST. HELIER

REPORT

On receiving the comments on the earlier version of this Proposition (P.104/2009), presented to the States on 16th October 2009 by the Minister for Treasury and Resources, I noted that the comments contained assumptions of the total cost for a Committee of Inquiry chaired by a legally qualified ex-judge or Queen's Counsel from outside the Island at a total cost of £219,500; £138,000 of which is for the Chairman's cost from outside the Island and his subsistence and accommodation.

The Minister for Treasury and Resources, in his comments on P.104/2009, proposed that if the States approved that Proposition, that due to financial constraints facing the States, he had no alternative but to request the Home Affairs Department to meet any cost of a Committee of Inquiry from within their existing budget.

Further, the Minister for Treasury and Resources recognised that the Minister for Home Affairs had extended the Wiltshire Constabulary Investigation to include the reasons surrounding the States of Jersey Police holding confidential files on States members, and believed that the Committee of Inquiry is an unnecessary expenditure and recommended that members reject this Proposition.

If the States are minded not to accept the Minister's recommendation, but are uncomfortable about the assumptions costs as proposed by the Minister, that if a local Chairman was appointed this would reduce the cost to £81,500 and provide, in my opinion, the sufficient safeguards that are contained within the original Proposition, bearing in mind the extended investigation by the Wiltshire Constabulary.

Financial and manpower implications

There are no financial or manpower implications other than if the Amendment is approved, there are potential savings of £138,000.

I submit this Amendment for consideration.