

# Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel

## Meeting No. 43

13th June 2007  
Blampied Room, States Building

Present Deputy G. P. Southern, Chairman, Chairman  
Deputy A. Breckon, Vice-Chairman  
Connétable M. K. Jackson  
Deputy J. A. Martin  
Deputy K. C. Lewis

Apologies

Absent

In attendance Nathan Fox, Scrutiny Officer  
Elizabeth Kingston-Walsh, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
1.	<p><b>Forthcoming propositions</b></p> <p>The Panel noted that P.76/2007 – ‘Draft Price and Charge Indicators (Jersey) Law 200-’ had been lodged ‘au Greffe’ by the Economic Development Minister.</p> <p>The Panel recalled that this law would regulate the addition of Goods and Services Tax (GST) to the price of goods. It was intended to ensure that price indications in shops would include GST, and although it did not stipulate details of pricing it was intended that subordinate Regulations to do so would follow.</p> <p>This law would introduce a presumption in favour of including GST in retail prices ‘on the shelf’, rather than permitting vendors to add it as a percentage at the point of sale.</p> <p>The Panel considered that the inclusion of GST in prices was not advantageous to consumer protection, and that this was a measure by the Executive to obfuscate the effects of GST on retail prices.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Retail Strategy Review</b></p> <p>The Panel recalled that Scrutiny’s firm of accountancy advisors, Alex Picot Chartered Accountants (Alex Picot), had agreed in principle to assist the Panel in consideration of the accounts of the Co-Operative Society (the Co-Op).</p> <p>The Panel directed officers to arrange a meeting with the advisers at an appropriate time to discuss how the subject should be approached. Connétable Jackson and Deputy Martin were delegated to attend the meeting and to take any appropriate further action.</p> <p>The Panel noted that it was currently in the evidence gathering stage for the full Retail Strategy Review, and was advised that a</p>	<b>NJF</b>

	<p>study of the effects of large multiples (especially Tesco) on smaller retailers had been published in book format. Officers were directed to liaise with Connétable Jackson to determine the best resources available and obtain them as necessary.</p> <p>The Panel was informed that Mr. J Scally of C. Le Masurier Limited was willing to give evidence to the Panel in respect of the EDAW report, and that Mr. B. Ludlum, a chartered surveyor, had also been approached to give evidence on this subject. The Panel decided that it would be appropriate to hold a Public Hearing to interview these witnesses. Officers were directed to take the appropriate action to prepare for a Public Hearing to be held before or after the Panel's next meeting on 27th June 2007.</p>	<p><b>EKW &amp; NJF</b></p> <p><b>EKW &amp; NJF</b></p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Finance Industry Briefing</b></p> <p>The Panel did not consider that it should formally attend a briefing regarding the finance industry to be held by the Chief Minister on 19th June 2007, although members were free to do so if they wished.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Jersey Telecom Privatisation</b></p> <p>The Panel noted that the steering group carrying out a cost/benefit analysis on the sale of Jersey Telecom had agreed terms of reference and that its work was underway.</p> <p>The Panel further noted that this work was to be presented on 19th July 2007. It was agreed that the Economic Affairs sub-Panel (Telecoms Privatisation) would attend and would pose questions as appropriate.</p> <p>The Panel was informed that Jersey Telecom would be holding its Annual General Meeting on 3rd July 2007.</p>	<p><b>JTSPAN</b></p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p>The Chairman made a statement to the effect that any action that he had taken in respect of the resignation of the Chairman of the Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel was solely as a back-bench member and that at no point had he acted as the Chairman of the Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel in relation to this matter.</p>	

**Signed**

**Date**

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**Chairman Deputy G. P. Southern**  
**Economic Affairs Panel**