

Public Accounts Committee

PUBLIC MEETING

Record of Meeting

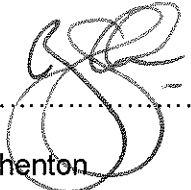
Date: 17th August 2009
Meeting 15

Present	Senator B.E. Shenton (Chairman) Connétable J.M. Refault (Vice-Chairman) Deputy T. Vallois Mr. C. Swinson, OBE, Comptroller & Auditor General Mr. M. Magee Mr. A. Fearn
Apologies	Senator A. Breckon Connétable S.Crowcroft Mr. K. Keen
Absent	Mr. P. Ryan
In attendance	Miss. A. Heuston, Committee Clerk Mrs. M. Pardoe, Public Accounts Committee Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
Item A1 06.08.09	1. 'Energy From Waste Plant – Review of Currency Exchange Risks' : review of the Report of the C&AG	
512(6)	<p>The Committee noted that its report would require a re-print as the Bookshop had run out of copies.</p> <p>The Committee expressed concern about the apparent lack of understanding by the Treasury about the key findings and recommendations of the report. More specifically, the Committee noted that there were still no stop loss mechanisms or policies in place. The Committee resolved to draft a letter to the Treasurer of the States (copied to the Minister for Treasury and Resources and the Chief Executive) requesting that he clarify what kind of stop loss provision had been established since the publication of the PAC Report. The Committee was also concerned whether the Treasurer of the States would be taking personal responsibility for the implementation of the Treasury Re-structuring Plan and asked that this be clarified within the same correspondence.</p> <p>The Officer was requested to prepare the draft correspondence on behalf of the Committee.</p>	MP
Item B2 30.07.09	2. Draft Treasury Restructuring Review	MP
512/4(8)	<p>The Committee agreed that Mr. A. Fearn should lead on this forthcoming review.</p> <p>The Committee was advised that the Minister for Treasury and Resources and the Treasurer of the States were available for a meeting</p>	

	<p>on the morning of 28th August 2009. However the Committee requested the Officer to arrange an alternative date as Mr. Fearn was unavailable until after 2nd September.</p> <p>The Committee expressed their reservations about the feasibility of the proposed Treasury re-structuring being implemented in the timescale suggested.</p> <p>While acknowledging the potential for overlap with the work being undertaken by the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel, the Committee decided to undertake a brief review on the subject in the light of its relevance to the recent PAC Report 'Energy From Waste Plant – Review of Currency Exchange Risks.'</p>	
<p>Item A5 20.07.09 512/3(8)</p>	<p>3. Financial Report and Accounts 2008</p> <p>The Committee welcomed the offer of the Comptroller and Auditor General to prepare some brief notes on this subject. These would be circulated to Committee members in due course.</p> <p>The Committee approved the draft letter from the Chairman to H.M. Attorney General, expressing concern about the provision of legal advice without charge.</p> <p>The Officer was requested to arrange hearing dates with Mr. M. King, Chief Officer, Economic Development Department and Mr. T. Allen, Chief Clerk, Law Officers' Department. Notes from previous hearings would be circulated to members for comment.</p>	<p>MP AH</p>
<p>Item A3 20.07.09 512(5)</p>	<p>4. Procurement Review</p> <p>The Committee recalled that the Connétable of St. Peter, Connétable J. Refault had been appointed to lead on this forthcoming review.</p> <p>The Committee was informed that the Chamber of Commerce would not agree to distribute the procurement questionnaire directly to its members, but that they did agree to provide a link to it in their newsletter. The officer was requested to upload the questionnaire to the website and draft a press release.</p>	<p>MP</p>
<p>Item B1 20.07.09 512(3)</p>	<p>5. Lord Portsea Gift Fund and Other Special Funds Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General [C&AG]</p> <p>The Committee agreed that this review should be considered in conjunction with the States Spending Review and Financial Management in the States as one combined review, and that hearings for the three topics should be undertaken concurrently. The Chairman was optimistic that the Committee would be able to respond positively to the publication of the Report of the C&AG on the Public Finances Law at its next meeting.</p>	
<p>Item A7 15.06.09 512(3)</p>	<p>6. States Spending Review – Emerging Issues – Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General [C&AG]</p> <p>The Committee received correspondence dated 29th July 2009 from the Deputy Chief Executive – Chief Officer of Resources. The Committee considered that the correspondence did not provide a satisfactory response to the C&AG's report. The Committee resolved to draft a strongly worded letter to the above, requesting a clarification of exactly what work still had to be done and which further work was being considered.</p>	

	The officer was directed to take the necessary actions.	MP
Item A2 20.07.09 512(10)	<p>7. Financial Management in the States - Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General [C&AG]</p> <p>The Committee received and considered the above report and agreed that since the report was highly critical, it was essential that this was considered further.</p>	
	<p>8. Future Meetings</p> <p>The Committee noted that its next scheduled meeting was at 12.30 on 21st September 2009 in the Blampied Room, States Building.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the next Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel scheduled meeting was on 2nd September and expressed the wish to meet with them on this date to discuss the Treasury Re-Structuring Plan. The Officer would take the necessary action in this regard.</p>	MP

Signed  Date: 21/9/09

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Senator B. Shenton

Chairman, Public Accounts Committee

