

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE
CHAIR OF THE PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE
BY DEPUTY R.J. WARD OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 20th OCTOBER 2020**

Question

Following the adoption of a time limit on speeches in the States Assembly, will the Chair consult with the Bailiff and provide guidance on –

- (a) what period of notice will be required to extend a speech;
- (b) what means should be used to request permission to extend a speech;
- (c) what criteria will be required to extend a speech beyond the 15-minute maximum;
- (d) whether there will be the opportunity to challenge decisions on limiting a speech to 15 minutes and, if so, will a procedure be put in place; and
- (e) whether there will ever be a requirement to look at the content of a speech?

Answer

The Committee has consulted the Bailiff on these points and can answer as follows:

- (a) A request to the Bailiff for a longer speech to be permitted in a debate should be given before the debate begins.
- (b) Members should email the Bailiff to request permission to extend a speech and to set out their reasons for doing so, by reference to the circumstances in which a longer speech can be permitted as set out in the guidance accompanying [P.109/2020](#). Members should not make the request by speaking or raising a point of order in the Assembly, as this will not provide an appropriate amount of time for the Bailiff to consider the matter.
- (c) The guidance attached to [P.109/2020](#) sets out the circumstances in which the presiding officer can exercise discretion to permit a longer speech. These are:
 - where the Bailiff has designated a Member to be the “main respondent” to a debate. This will be announced at the start of a debate, in accordance with the criteria set out in the guidance
 - where a number of technically complex points need to be made during the speech
 - where the subject of the debate is especially emotive and further time is required by an individual member to complete his or her speech
 - where a member has experienced technical difficulties when participating remotely
- (d) The decisions of the presiding officer to enforce the 15-minute speech limit cannot be challenged, although Members may raise points of order where there is a need for a ruling from the chair on a related matter. A Member wishing to amend the guidance should write to PPC and the Bailiff and has the option, if necessary, of bringing a proposition to the Assembly for debate.
- (e) The guidance involves longer speeches being permitted if the subject matter of a speech or a debate is particularly emotive or if a Member wishes to elaborate on complex or technical matters. A Member seeking to make a longer speech should give a brief explanation of which of these criteria applies but does not need to provide a copy of the speech.