

KS/SB/128

PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

(32nd Meeting)

(Business conducted by electronic mail)30th April 2019**PART A (Non-Exempt)**

All members were present, with the exception of Connétable C.H. Taylor of St. John, Deputy J.M. Maçon of St. Saviour and Deputy M.R. Le Hegarat of St. Helier, from whom apologies had been received.

Deputy R. Labey of St. Helier, Chairman  
 Connétable A.S. Crowcroft of St. Helier  
 Deputy S.M. Wickenden of St. Helier  
 Deputy C.S. Alves of St. Helier

In attendance -

W. Millow, Assistant Greffier of the States (Chamber)  
 K.L. Slack, Clerk to the Privileges and Procedures Committee

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A only.

Referendum  
 Commission.  
 1417/99(1)

A1. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. B3 of 5th February 2019, recalled that the Chairman of the Committee had held a meeting with the Chairman of the Referendum Commission ('the Commission') in January 2019, at which he had requested the latter to prepare a report for the Committee's consideration. The Committee was mindful that States Members requested referenda from time to time and felt that it was important that there should be clarity around the standards that needed to be attained in order to make the holding of a referendum worthwhile.

In connexion with the foregoing, the Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Commission, which outlined the Commission's conclusions and recommendations on the holding of referenda in Jersey. Although the Commission had only been established in December 2017, it had already gained experience of the process. The Committee recalled that this was as a result of States Assembly voting to adopt the Proposition of the former Chief Minister, entitled, 'Elected Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the States Assembly: selection and appointment' (P.84/2017), as amended by former Senator Sir Philip Bailhache, which had resulted in the Commission being required to prepare a Referendum Act, albeit that Act had ultimately been rejected by the States Assembly in July 2018.

The Committee noted that the Commission intended for its report to act as a 'code of good practice' to assist Members of the States and the public to understand the issues surrounding whether, or not, to hold a referendum and, if so, how it should be organised. As the Commission gained further experience and knowledge of referenda, both locally and elsewhere, it was intended that the report should be updated.

The Committee expressed its gratitude to the members of the Commission for their work in connexion with the report and agreed that it should be made publicly available.

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Accordingly, it requested the Assistant Greffier to arrange for the report to be formally presented to the States in the Reports series.