

PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

(113th Meeting)

12th July 2011

PART A

All members were present.

Connétable J. Gallichan of St. Mary, Chairman
Senator B.I. Le Marquand
Senator S.C. Ferguson
Connétable P.F.M. Hanning of St. Saviour
Deputy J.B. Fox
Deputy J.A. Martin
Deputy T.M. Pitman

In attendance -

Deputy D.J.A. Wimberley (item No. A2 only)
M.N. de la Haye, Greffier of the States
Mrs. A.H. Harris, Deputy Greffier of the States
Miss A-C. Heuston, Clerk to the Privileges and Procedures Committee

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A and Part B.

Minutes

A1. The Minutes of the meetings of 14th June 2011 (Part A only) and 23rd June 2011 (Part A only), having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

‘Electoral
Commission:
possible options’.
P.54/2011
1240/22/1(59)

A2. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. A2 of 14th June 2011, welcomed Deputy D.J.A. Wimberley in connexion with the consultation response which he had submitted in respect of the Committee’s report: ‘Electoral Commission: possible options’ (P.54/2011 refers).

The Committee recalled that Deputy Wimberley’s original proposition had suggested that the Commission should comprise a chairman and 2 members from outside Jersey, with 3 members from Jersey. However, in response to the Committee’s report: ‘Electoral Commission: possible options,’ the Deputy had stated that his favoured solution would be for the Commission to consist entirely of local individuals, with expertise available on demand from an advisory board. Deputy Wimberley informed the Committee that this remained his preferred option and he considered that the Appointments Commission should be consulted in respect of the selection of both the local members and experts. Deputy Wimberley considered that the advisory board should be required to meet with the local members in order to inform their work. It was agreed that all members should be objective and committed, and Deputy Wimberley suggested a citizens’ jury could be an alternative option for the selection of members. Having been thanked by the Chairman for his attendance, Deputy Wimberley accordingly withdrew from the meeting.

The Committee expressed concern that, should the Commission be established as per Deputy Wimberley’s proposal with the experts remaining external to the main Commission, the benefit of their assistance would be lost during meetings and

hearings, for example. It was therefore considered preferable for the experts to form part of the main panel. The Committee **agreed** that it would wish to propose that the Commission be composed of a local chairman, 2 members and 2 experts. It was further **agreed** that a report should be drafted to this effect, for consideration at a future meeting, with a view to its being subsequently presented to the States.

The Greffier of the States was requested to take the necessary action.

Hand-held
devices in the
States Chamber:
trial.
P.77/2011
465/1(169)

A3. The Committee received the proposition: Hand-held devices in the States Chamber: trial (P.77/2011) – amendment, lodged *au Greffe* on 28th June 2011 by Deputy D.J. De Sousa.

The Committee noted that the Deputy's amendment was in respect of its proposition, Hand-held devices in the States Chamber: trial (P.77/2011). The Committee's proposition had been lodged *au Greffe* on 17th May 2011 and asked the States to agree that members should be permitted to use hand-held electronic devices (but not laptop computers) in the States Chamber for a trial period until 31st March 2012. Deputy De Sousa proposed that the use of laptop computers should also be permitted during the trial. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. A6 of the present meeting, noted that there was a significant amount of States business outstanding which required consideration in advance of the summer recess. Having discussed the matter, the Committee **agreed** that its proposition P.77/2011 did not require immediate consideration, and should therefore be withdrawn, with a view to its being re-lodged at a later date.

The Greffier of the States was requested to take the necessary action.

Education
election
protocols.
424/2(75)

A4. The Committee received protocols prepared by the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture, in respect of the procedure to be followed by schools, colleges and the Youth Service when dealing with election candidates in advance of the October 2011 elections.

The Minister had asked the Committee to consider the protocols and whether it would be willing to advise candidates in respect of the guidelines. It was noted that, under the guidance notes to secondary head teachers and the principal of Highlands College, paragraph 3.3 prevented schools from inviting or allowing election candidates to campaign on the premises and paragraph 3.4 stated that candidates should not be permitted to address young voters. This prevented any hustings from being held at secondary schools or Highlands College. With regard to the guidance notes for senior youth workers and others working for the Youth Service, candidates were not permitted to campaign in youth clubs in accordance with paragraph 3.3 and it was therefore not possible for a hustings meeting to take place at a youth club. Paragraph 3.4 prevented Youth Service staff from instigating meetings with election candidates and the Committee expressed concern that youth workers might therefore be discouraged from helping to arrange hustings meetings for young people due to the risk of being considered in breach of the guidelines. It was agreed that the Committee would wish to discuss the guidelines with the Minister prior to agreeing to notify future election candidates of their content.

The Chairman was requested to invite the Minister to attend a future meeting of the Committee. The Committee Clerk was requested to take the necessary action.

States' business.

A5. The Committee noted the content of the Order Paper in respect of the States sitting of the present date.

Having noted the significant amount of business outstanding and the limited time available, it was **agreed** that the Chairman should request certain amendments to

the Order Paper, including the prioritisation of legislation. The Chairman was requested to take the necessary action.

Media Working
Party: web-
streaming States
meetings.
1240/10(36)

A6. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. A10 of 24th May 2011, received an update from the President of the Chairmen's Committee in respect of the possibility of uploading recordings of meetings to the States Assembly website.

The Committee noted that scrutiny would continue to monitor the situation and did not intend to give it further consideration at the present time. The position was **noted**.

Work
programme.

A7. The Committee **noted** its ongoing work programme.