

Privileges and Procedures Committee

(5th Meeting)

6th June 2023

Part A

All members were present with the exception of Connétable M. O'D Troy of St. Clement, Connétable K. Shenton-Stone of St Martin, Deputy P.F.C Ozouf of St Saviour, Deputy M.R. Scott of St Brelade and Deputy I. Gardiner of St Helier from whom apologies had been received.

Deputy C.S. Alves of St Helier, Chair
Connétable M.A. Labey of Grouville
Deputy L.M.C Doublet of St Saviour
Deputy R.L. Kovacs of St Saviour
Deputy H.L. Jeune of St John, St Lawrence and Trinity
Deputy M.B. Andrews of St Helier

In attendance -

K. Boydens, Principal Committee and Panel Officer
J. Hales, Research and Project Officer
Dr J. Smith, Lecturer in Politics (Item A2)

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A.

Minutes. A1. The Sub-Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2023.

Effective and Inclusive Parliaments – meeting with Dr Jessica Smith. A2. The Sub-Committee welcomed Dr J. Smith, author of Effective and Inclusive Parliaments for a meeting to discuss the report's recommendations. Dr Smith explained that she had authored the report for the British Islands and Mediterranean Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA BIMR). The report addressed equality of participation and representation within the region's parliaments and documented the current state of play regarding gender-sensitive practices in institutions across BIMR.

Dr Smith's report made 21 recommendations in total, and the Sub-Committee discussed how the States Assembly could apply some (or all) of them to its working practices. In relation to recommendation 21:

All BIMR Institutions who had not undertaken a Gender Audit in the last 3 years to initiate an Audit using the CPA 2020 Guidelines and Checklist

It was noted that a Gender Audit had been published in 2019 by the previous Diversity Forum. Dr Smith encouraged the Sub-Committee to undertake a follow-up audit during its term of office. The Sub-Committee agreed and requested the Principal Committee and Panel Officer to include a follow-up gender audit on its work programme.

Dr Smith explained that embedding gender sensitivity into every day practices was important as was the collection of data. Data collection would enable the Sub-

Committee to review and monitor trends which could highlight key areas to initiate change. As well as gender issues, Dr Smith explained that other inclusion and diversity matters such as disability and accessibility was important.

The Sub-Committee thanked Dr Smith for her time, and she withdrew from the meeting.

Diversity
Forum Legacy
Report – Red-
Amber-Green
table.

A3. The Sub-Committee considered a paper on the previous Diversity Forum’s legacy report under a Red-Amber-Green rated system. In relation to the first action, the Sub-Committee agreed that the introduction of role descriptions for Assembly roles was a high priority. In that regard, the Principal Committee and Panel Officer advised that the Privileges and Procedures Committee was due to establish a Machinery of Government Sub-Committee which could take this action forward.

In relation to the action on ensuring that all committees and panels contained at least one man and one woman, it was agreed that the Chair would discuss this with the Scrutiny Liaison Committee at a future meeting. The Research and Project Officer was tasked to make the necessary arrangements.

The Sub-Committee requested that the RAG table was reconfigured to show priority actions at the top. It also requested that another column was inserted to set out timelines for achieving each action. The Principal Committee and Panel Officer was tasked to make the necessary changes.

The
introduction of
Proxy voting.

A4. The Sub-Committee received a paper on the introduction of proxy voting in the States Assembly. The Sub-Committee agreed to defer the discussion until the next meeting.

Committee and
Panel gender
balance –
statistics.

A5. The Sub-Committee received a paper which provided statistics on the gender balance of Assembly Committees and Panels. The Sub-Committee agreed that this matter would be discussed with the Scrutiny Liaison Committee in due course.

Attitudes
towards
migrants.

A6. The Sub-Committee noted a number of recent media articles regarding migrants coming to live and work in Jersey. Deputy Kovacs had raised the matter as there had been some negative attitudes towards migrants, many of whom faced a number of challenges, particularly those without qualifications for housing, when moving to Jersey. Deputy Kovacs suggested that the local media was invited to develop a code of how they reported on diversity and inclusion in the island. The Sub-Committee agreed that this matter strayed outside of its remit.

States
Assembly
Business.

A7. The Sub-Committee noted that the Privileges and Procedures Committee had lodged a proposition which proposed enabling members to participate remotely during States meetings (P.21/2023). Although the proposition had been referred back to the Committee and then later withdrawn, the Sub-Committee agreed that these types of propositions should be referred to it in the first instance. In that regard, the Sub-Committee requested that the Committee consult with the Sub-Committee before a revised proposition was lodged. The Principal Committee and Panel Officer was tasked to make the necessary arrangements.

On a related matter, the Sub-Committee requested that States Assembly business was added as a permanent item on its future agendas. The Principal Committee and Panel Officer was tasked to make the necessary arrangements.

In terms of the next States meeting due to take place on 13th June 2023, the Sub-Committee noted that Deputy Max Andrews had lodged a proposition which proposed

a breakdown of gender pay statistics (P.31/2023). The Sub-Committee requested that a Comments paper was drafted which outlined the Sub-Committee's support of the proposition. As a member of the Sub-Committee, it was agreed that Deputy Andrews would not partake in the drafting of the Comments or the approval process. The Principal Committee and Panel Officer advised that a Comments paper would be circulated for approval in due course, noting the deadline for presentation was 12 noon on 9th June 2023.

Matters raised under AOB. A8. The Sub-Committee requested that a table was produced which provided a summary of the work being undertaken by Committees and Panels. This would include relevant links to documents and press notices. The Principal Committee and Panel Officer explained that this type of document would require co-ordination across the States Greffe team and advised that she would discuss the matter with the Greffier and Deputy Greffier in the first instance. It was also advised that the matter would need to be discussed with the main Privileges and Procedures Committee as it fell more within its remit.

Future Meetings. A9. The Sub-Committee noted that its next meeting was due to take place on 11th July 2023 at 2pm in the Blampied room.