

STATES OF JERSEY



COMPOSITION AND ELECTION OF THE STATES ASSEMBLY: REFORM – PROPOSALS 1, 2 AND 3 (P.93/2013, P.94/2013 AND P.98/2013) – COMMENTS

Presented to the States on 10th September 2013
by the Privileges and Procedures Committee

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

As the States are aware, at their last Sitting they agreed to request the Privileges and Procedures Committee to seek alternatives for reform of the States Assembly. Over the summer period, the Committee undertook a questionnaire to all States members, and has received responses from 30 members so far.

The Committee has just resumed after the summer recess, and has not yet had time to analyse fully the responses to the questionnaire, or to consider carefully the way forward. Clearly the Committee is asked to find a structure that will work in the long term, and it may need to review again the recommendations made by the Clothier Panel. To this end, it is meeting very soon to continue its review.

The Committee is aware from freestyle comments made in the questionnaire that a number of States members had voiced concerns that the Machinery of Government Review outcomes had not been available prior to being asked to resolve the appropriate number of States members in the Assembly. The Committee is now presenting to the States on the Sub-Committee's behalf its final report, and believes that members require time to consider and discuss that report before debating any proposition on the composition and election of the States Assembly. To facilitate this discussion, the Chairman proposes to invite the States to agree that there should be an 'in Committee' debate on the Machinery of Government Review report during early October.

Having supported the chairmanship of the Privileges and Procedures Committee on the basis of reviewing the alternatives for reform, the Committee therefore asks the States to allow the Committee time to complete its task. The Committee recognises the time-critical nature of this process if any changes are to be agreed for 2014, and it is therefore treating this topic with correspondingly high priority.