

# Public Accounts Committee

## MEETING

### Record of Meeting

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Meeting 23

Present	Senator B.E. Shenton (Chairman) Connétable J.M. Refault (Vice-Chairman) Senator J. Perchard Senator A. Breckon Mr. M. Magee Mr A. Fearn Mr. K. Keen
Apologies	Connétable S.Crowcroft
Absent	Mr. P. Ryan
In attendance	Mr C. Swinson O.B.E, Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) Mrs. M. Pardoe, Public Accounts Committee Officer Mr. M. de la Haye, Greffier of the States (present for item 4)

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p><b>1. Records of meetings</b></p> <p>The records of the meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009 were agreed.</p> <p>The C&amp;AG requested that the minutes should record him as 'in attendance' rather than 'present' as although he was expected to be present at all Committee meetings, he was not a Committee Member. It was agreed that the minutes would be presented in the style requested by the C&amp;AG in future.</p>	MP
	<p><b>2. Interview panels</b></p> <p>The Committee considered that given the large size of the Committee, small 'interview panels' of three or more Members could be useful, primarily for the purposes of hearings or fact finding visits. It was recognised that different Committee Members had various specialist knowledge and that this technique could enable the most efficient use of resources within the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that this was a constructive idea which would be implemented forthwith, with the proviso that the full Committee would be reverted to in the event of any decision making. It was also stressed that no Committee Member would be prevented or discouraged from attending any hearing or visit.</p>	
Item A7 23.11.09	<p><b>3. Lord Portsea Gift Fund and Other Special Funds Report / Financial Management in the States / Public Finance Law</b></p> <p>It was noted that the Committee's Amendment to Proposition P.174/2009 regarding funding for H1N1 had been partially adopted on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009. The States had agreed that the spending of the funds voted would be subject to scrutiny by the Committee, but had not agreed that withdrawal of funds be limited to 2009. It was recalled that the Minister for Treasury and Resources had spoken very strongly</p>	

	<p>against the Committee's Amendment.</p> <p>It was agreed that regardless of the outcome of the vote, the Amendment had been worth putting to the States as it had brought the issue to the public forum.</p> <p>The Committee recalled the correspondence (previously circulated by electronic mail) sent from the Committee to Mr. R. Pearson – Director of Finance and Information, Health and Social Services, on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009, requesting more detailed information regarding public spending on the flu pandemic. It was noted that a response to this letter had not yet been received.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to also write to the Treasurer of the States in order to remind him of his obligations in this regard.</p>	MP
<p><b>Item A8</b> <b>23.11.09</b></p>	<p><b>4. Sickness levels in the public sector</b></p> <p>The Committee recalled that the Committee's interim report relating to the above had been finalised and sent to stakeholders for comment on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009. It was noted that the Vice Chairman had attended a meeting with the Chief Executive and the Greffier of the States in this regard on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2009.</p> <p>After discussion, it was decided to delay the publication of the interim report pending further evidence gathering. It was agreed that the public hearing with union representatives planned for the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010 would also be cancelled. The Committee resolved to write to the Director of Human Resources and the Chief Executive to confirm this decision.</p>	MP
<p><b>Item A6</b> <b>23.11.09</b></p>	<p><b>5. States Spending Review – Emerging Issues – Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General</b></p> <p>The Committee recalled that a fact finding visit by the Chairman, Senator J. Perchard and Mr. A. Fearn to the Meteorological Office had been arranged for 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010. The Committee were informed by the Chairman that the Chief Officer for Planning and Environment had asked whether the Minister was expected to be present at this meeting. The Committee agreed that there was no need for the Minister to attend.</p>	
<p><b>Item A9</b> <b>23.11.09</b></p>	<p><b>6. Court and case costs</b></p> <p>The Committee recalled correspondence (previously circulated by electronic mail) sent from the Committee to Mr. M. Wilkins, Judicial Greffier, dated 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009, which requested further information regarding the possibility of a 'user pays' system. It was noted that a response to this letter had not yet been received.</p>	
	<p><b>7. Committee work programme 2010</b></p> <p>It was agreed that forward planning and prioritisation of the Committee's work was necessary and that this subject would be placed on the next Agenda. The Committee's duty to consider the reports of the C&amp;AG was re-iterated.</p>	MP
<p><b>Item A6</b> <b>23.11.09</b></p>	<p><b>8. States Spending Review - Emerging Issues – Report by the C&amp;AG</b></p> <p>The Committee recalled that a hearing had been planned in regard of the above report for the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2010. It was decided that background questions would be sent to the witnesses in the new year. It was further agreed that this document would not need to be very detailed as the C&amp;AG's report had already laid out focused recommendations.</p>	MP

**9. Future meetings**

The Committee noted that its next meeting was scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 12.30pm in the Blampied Room, States Building. The dates of all Committee meetings in 2010 (previously agreed with the C&AG and circulated to Members via electronic mail) were also noted.

Signed

Date:



25/1/2010

Chairman, Public Accounts Committee

