

STATES OF JERSEY



COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY: REG'S SKIPS LTD. – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Lodged au Greffe on 6th April 2009
by the Minister for Planning and Environment

STATES GREFFE

PROPOSITION

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion –

- (a) to agree that a Committee of Inquiry should be established in accordance with Standing Order 146 to inquire into a definite matter of public importance, namely to investigate all planning matters relating to the various relevant planning applications made by, or on behalf of, Reg's Skips Ltd. in connection with the activities of the company as skip operators –
 - (i) to establish whether the various planning applications were determined appropriately and to a standard expected of the Planning and Environment Department; and
 - (ii) to establish whether the legal fees accrued by Reg's Skips Ltd. totalling nearly £300,000 were as a result of any failings in the processes or actions of the Planning and Environment Department;
- (b) to request the Chief Minister to take the necessary steps to select a suitable Chairman and members to undertake the Inquiry and to bring forward to the States for approval the necessary proposition relating to their appointment.

MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

REPORT

During the recent States debate on the proposition lodged by Senator Shenton, many statements were made by members criticising the Planning Department. The purpose of the Committee of Inquiry is to establish the accurate facts and to determine if the various planning applications made by Reg's Skips were appropriately dealt with by the Planning Department. The Inquiry will also establish if the actions of the Planning Department were responsible for the legal bills totalling nearly £300,000 currently accrued by Reg's Skips.

It is essential that confidence is maintained in the Planning Department, and this Inquiry will ensure that the facts are available to States members and the public.

Financial and manpower implications

The costs will depend upon the level of officer support required. A Committee of Inquiry normally requires the appointment or secondment of an officer on a part-time basis, and I estimate that the total cost should not exceed £15,000. The Minister for Treasury and Resources is required, under Standing Order 150(c), to give directions on how the above expenses should be funded.