

STATES OF JERSEY



STATES EMPLOYEES: PAY INCREASE FOR 2009/2010

Lodged au Greffe on 12th May 2009
by the Deputy of St. John

STATES GREFFE

PROPOSITION

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

to request the Council of Ministers to retract their stance of a pay freeze for States employees and put in place a pay increase across the entire workforce of £400 per annum per employee

DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN

REPORT

Although staff have been advised that there will not be a wage increase this year, I believe that all our staff, whether they are manual workers at the lower end of the pay scale or senior civil servants within all States Departments, should have some sort of wage increase.

Given in recent times Jersey has become a more expensive place to live and that staff, like all Islanders, have had to contend with the introduction of GST, increases in ITIS payments under 20 means 20 and general cost of living rises, by not giving a pay rise it could be argued that a pay freeze is a wage decrease and this can not be right.

Average weekly shopping bills have risen – particularly for the essential basics. The purpose of giving a £400 standard payment to all staff is that the cost of everyday essentials like a pint of milk, a loaf of bread, a litre of fuel or electricity charges is the same for all employees whether in the private or public sector.

The staff we employ need to feel valued; they do an excellent job. The proposed payment will need to be discussed with the negotiating body of the States Employment Board and the respective staff representatives and unions.

I believe that during this credit crunch each and every one of us needs to tighten our belts and show restraint, but at the same time be fair to all.

Financial and manpower implications

There are financial implications year on year of approximately £3 million but this is much less than if a 2 % package had been awarded across the board, as this would have been in the region of £6.4 million.