

STATES OF JERSEY



CHIEF MINISTER: VOTE OF CENSURE (P.116/2011) – COMMENTS

Presented to the States on 4th July 2011
by the Chief Minister

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

I stand by my record and that of my Council of Ministers.

I, along with my Council of Ministers, have sometimes had to make difficult decisions. I appreciate that these decisions have not always found universal favour, but frankly I do not see how that warrants a vote of censure due to perceived failings in my conduct as Chief Minister.

Members will, I hope, be pleased that I am not responding in detail to every one of the 13 perceived failings that the Deputy has highlighted. I can assure members that there is a complete response to every criticism made.

I do this not only in an attempt to save time at an extremely busy period for the States, but in recognition of the fact that during States Question Time, well over 100 questions have been asked of, and answered by me alone (and that does not include replies from other Ministers) simply on the issues he has raised.

This vote of censure has no substance. It has selective phrasing and in places is ill-informed and factually incorrect.

I would urge members to look at the Code of Conduct and remember that we are elected to serve here for the best interests of the people of Jersey. I would also point them in the direction of paragraph 8 – maintaining the integrity of the States by strengthening the public's trust and confidence in the States, and not bringing it into disrepute.

I think that there is a danger in certain quarters that the respect we have for each other is diminishing and the expression of natural differences of political views on issues and policies lacks the courtesy and respect it deserves

This proposition should be given short shrift.