

PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

(39th Meeting)

4th March 2005PART A

(Meeting conducted by telephone)

All members were present, with the exception of Deputy C.J. Scott Warren and Deputy J-A. Bridge, from whom apologies had been received.

Deputy R.G. Le Hérisssier
 Senator P.V.F. Le Claire
 Connétable D.F. Gray
 Deputy P.N. Troy
 Deputy J.A. Bernstein

In attendance -

Mrs. A.H. Harris, Deputy Greffier of the States
 I. Clarkson, Committee Clerk

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A only.

Shadow Scrutiny:
 funding request.
 502/1(31)

Clerk
 D.G.O.S.
 Scrutiny

A1. The Committee, with reference to its Act No. A1 of 5th January 2005, recalled that it had maintained the requirement for the Shadow Scrutiny Panel chaired by Senator E.P. Vibert to submit a formal written request, supported by an appropriate business case, before it would be prepared to consider sanctioning further expenditure. It further recalled that, on 19th January 2005, the States had agreed that the Shadow Scrutiny Panel concerned with the Waste Management Strategy should continue under the chairmanship of Senator E.P. Vibert for a period of 2 months for the sole purpose of the presentation of the final report to the States (Projet No. P.4/2005 refers).

The Committee received a written request, dated 3rd March 2005, from Mrs. C. Le Quesne, Scrutiny Officer, for funding in connexion with a fact finding visit to a waste processing plant, located in the vicinity of Poitiers, France, at which a trial of an alternative processing technology was being conducted. It was understood that the aforementioned trial was nearing completion and, accordingly, the Panel considered that a fact finding visit would add significant value to its final report.

The Committee was presented with two possible travel options as follows -

Option 1 (Based on 6 passengers)

Condor return tickets @15% discount (Bontour Agency)	£204.00
2 day hire of minibus with driver (Bontour Agency)	
9hrs round trip with minibus	£890.00
Hotel 2 - 3star £40 per person per night (approx)	£300.00
Expenses meals Lunch £20 pp max - dinner £30 pp max	£300.00

£1694.00

Total

Option 2 (Based on 5 passengers)

Day return flight with Mr. J. Marett Twin engine, 4-5 seater aircraft (2 pilots)	
Round trip 3 hours	£1600.00
Lunch (if required) 5 + crew	£140.00
Other expenses (taxi etc)	£50.00

Total £1790.00

The Committee recalled that, on 1st March 2005, the President of the Environment and Public Services Committee had expressed serious concerns in the States at what his Committee considered to be an unacceptable delay in producing a final report on the draft Waste Management Strategy. It further recalled that Senator E.P. Vibert had mounted a robust defence of his Panel and that both parties had agreed to meet with the President to discuss the timetable for release of the final report. With the foregoing in mind, the Committee expressed a degree of concern that the Panel remained actively engaged in the process of evidence gathering. Nevertheless, it accepted that a satisfactory business case for the proposed visit had been made.

The Committee agreed to sanction expenditure by the Scrutiny Panel chaired by Senator E.P. Vibert up to a maximum of £1,800 in connexion with the proposed visit to the waste processing plant in the vicinity of Poitiers, France. It nevertheless concluded that it would be reluctant to approve any further expenditure for the purposes of evidence gathering unless a particularly compelling business case could be made.