

## Social Affairs Scrutiny Panel Income Support Sub-Panel

Meeting 1

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2006

Location: Blampied Room, States Building

Present	Deputy F.J. Hill, B.E.M., Chairman Deputy J.A. Martin, Vice Chairman Senator B.E. Shenton Deputy G.P. Southern Deputy S. Pitman	
Apologies		
Absent		
In attendance	Deputy D.W. Mezbourian (For a time) Mr. C. Ahier, Scrutiny Officer Mr. W. Millow, Scrutiny Officer	
Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p><b>1. Chairman and Vice-Chairman</b></p> <p>The Sub-Panel agreed that Deputy F.J. Hill, BEM, would be its Chairman and Deputy J.A. Martin its Vice-Chairman.</p>	
	<p><b>2. Matters Arising</b></p> <p>The Sub-Panel was requested to pass information received and requests relating to the review through the Scrutiny Office. It was noted that members of the Sub-Panel would inform the Scrutiny Officers if they had not received a relevant document.</p> <p>The Sub-Panel noted that a number of issues concerning <i>Standing Orders of the States of Jersey</i> had become apparent. It noted that these issues represented a matter for discussion by the Chairmen's Committee.</p> <p>The Sub-Panel noted that Scrutiny adverts placed in the Jersey Evening Post were subject to contractual agreements made by the States relating to the format of such adverts. The Sub-Panel was informed that the Chairmen's Committee was in correspondence with Mr. C. Bright, Editor of the Jersey Evening Post.</p>	
	<p><b>3. Relationship between the Sub-Panel and Social Affairs Panel</b></p> <p>The Sub-Panel noted the provisions for sub-panels under Standing Order 139: establishment of sub-panels. It further noted provisions for sub-panels under Items 4.13 to 4.16 of the Code of Practice.</p> <p>The Sub-Panel noted the initial estimates for budget and manpower allocations to the Income Support Review. It was informed that transcription costs provided the bulk of the budget allocation for Public Hearings.</p> <p>The Sub-Panel agreed that agendas for Sub-Panel meetings, as well as information received in relation to the Income Support review, would be sent to those members of the Social Affairs Scrutiny Panel who were not also members of the Sub-Panel.</p>	



The Sub-Panel considered Act A3 of the former Finance and Economics Committee of 16<sup>th</sup> June 2005 regarding the sum of money allocated by this Department to mitigate the effect of a Goods and Services Tax (GST) on those on low incomes. The Sub-Panel agreed to write to the Minister for Treasury and Resources to ask for clarification on this matter. The Sub-Panel noted that this information could be put into the Public domain subsequent to an answer being received from the Minister.

CA/WM

The Sub-Panel considered Act B3 of the former Employment and Social Security Committee of 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2005 regarding information received from the Department of Housing. The Sub-Panel agreed to write to the Minister for Social Security to ask for clarification on this matter.

CA/WM

The Sub-Panel noted Act B6 of the former Housing Committee of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2005 regarding the manner in which people would be affected by the introduction of an income support system.

### **c) Welfare Payments**

The Sub-Panel considered an article which had appeared in the Jersey Evening Post on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2006 relating to welfare payments. It agreed to write to each Connétable to clarify what arrangements were in place regarding people who were 'asset rich but cash poor'. It further agreed to notify formally the Comité des Connétables of this action.

CA/WM

### **d) Data Protection**

The Sub-Panel noted that Mrs. E. Martins, Data Protection Commissioner, had advised that, as of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2006, she had not been given sight of the Draft Income Support Law. It was further noted that recommendations had been made during the Shadow Scrutiny phase that the Commissioner be consulted as a matter of course on draft legislation. It agreed to contact the Department of Social Security in order to establish what consultation it had undertaken with the Commissioner.

CA/WM

### **e) Other matters**

The Sub-Panel noted that the document *Pensions at a Glance* (produced by the OECD) would potentially be useful as a source of background information.

The Sub-Panel considered what reference had been made in the *States of Jersey Draft Strategic Plan 2006-2011* to the proposed Income Support system

The Sub-Panel noted that requests for information had been made to the Department of Social Security (with a subsequent follow-up request) but that no information had yet been received.

The Sub-Panel considered the provision of the Christmas and Winter Bonuses and the manner in which they would be affected by the implementation of the Income Support system. It was

	<p>agreed that discussion of this matter would be deferred.</p> <p>The Sub-Panel considered whether it would like to use an external adviser during the course of the Income Support review. It was advised that protocols were in place for the appointment process. It was agreed that discussion of this matter would be deferred until the next meeting.</p>	<p><b>CA/WM</b></p>
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Signed

Date

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Chairman,  
Income Support Sub-Panel,

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