

PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

(20th Meeting)

5th June 2009**PART A**

All members were present.

Connétable J. Gallichan of St. Mary, Chairman
 Senator B.I. Le Marquand
 (not present for Item Nos. A1 to A4)
 Deputy J.B. Fox
 Deputy J.A. Martin
 Deputy C.H. Egré
 Deputy M. Tadier
 Deputy M.R. Higgins

In attendance -

M.N. de la Haye, Greffier of the States
 Mrs. A.H. Harris, Deputy Greffier of the States
 Miss A-C. Heuston, Clerk to the Privileges and Procedures Committee

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A and Part B.

States Members'
 Remuneration
 Review Board
 recommenda-
 tions for 2009 to
 2011.
 1240/3(73)

A1. The Committee noted correspondence from the Chairman of the States' Members' Remuneration Review Board, Mr. J. Rogers, dated 29th May 2009, and received the recommendations of the States Members' Remuneration Review Board for 2009 to 2011.

The Committee noted that the report was presented in two parts. Part A related to the basic level of remuneration and expenses for States members for the period 2009 to 2011, and, in accordance with the States' decision of 25th November 2003, unless any member of the States pursued a debate on the recommendations set out within one month of the date of presentation to the States by the Committee, the recommendations would be implemented as outlined by the Board. Part B dealt with other matters which arose from the consultations and subsequent deliberations of the Board, and included the recommendation that pension arrangements be introduced for States members. The Committee noted that, in accordance with the decision of the States on 22nd July 2005, these recommendations could not be implemented until they had been debated and agreed by the States.

It was agreed that Parts A and B of the report should be presented separately by the Committee and that each part should be preceded by a foreword from the Committee.

The Greffier of the States was requested to take the necessary action.

Voting systems.
 1240/22(8)

A2. The Committee noted correspondence dated 27th May 2009 from Deputy P.V.F. Le Claire in connexion with voting systems.

The Deputy invited the Committee to examine the content of a report of the Electoral

Reform Society of Great Britain and Ireland, entitled: "How to conduct an election by the single transferable vote," by Mr. R.A. Newland and Mr. F. S. Britton.

It was agreed that the Committee would consider the content of the report in full and would discuss the matter at a future meeting.

Public Elections
(Jersey) Law
2002.
424(8)

A3. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. A2 of 15th May 2009, received the Gazette notices placed by the Judicial Greffe in advance of the 2008 elections.

The Committee considered the format of the advertisement, which advised those entitled to vote that they could register for postal voting, and which had been published by the Judicial Greffier on 2 different days in accordance with Article 39 (1) of the Public Elections (Jersey) Law 2002. It was noted that the advertisement was required to be published in the Gazette by law, however the Committee felt that the information could also be presented in a more succinct manner, with greater regard to layout and design. It was noted that it was within the remit of the Committee to propose that the law be amended.

The Committee agreed that it wished to consider a number of matters arising in connexion with the Public Elections (Jersey) Law, and that advertising should be among the items considered. The Committee discussed the possibility of establishing a sub-panel on electoral reform.

The Committee recalled that the proposition lodged "au Greffe" by Deputy G.P. Southern entitled Public Elections (Jersey) Law 2002: Rescindment of Article 39A (P.18/2009 refers) would be debated by the States on 16th June 2009 and that discussions had been entered into by the Committee with Jurats J.L. Le Breton and J.M. Clapham, as well as the Deputy Judicial Greffier, Advocate P. Matthews, with regard to the possible extension of sick voting and postal voting. The view was expressed that one way forward would be to have a central electoral officer for the whole Island. It was agreed that any further discussion in this regard should await the outcome of the debate concerning Article 39A.

Draft Freedom of
Information
(Jersey) Law
200-
670(1)

A4. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. A1 of 22nd May 2009, received an annotated draft of the Draft Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 200- following the visit of Mr. G. Smith, Deputy Information Commissioner, United Kingdom Information Commissioner's Office, on 21st and 22nd May 2009.

Mrs. A.H. Harris, Deputy Greffier of the States, advised the Committee that the draft had been annotated with comments arising from the visit of the Deputy Information Commissioner.

It was noted that Mr. M. Frankel, Director, Campaign for Freedom of Information, would attend upon the Committee on the morning and afternoon of 12th June 2009 and that all States Members had been invited to attend a lunchtime meeting in the States Chamber with Mr. Frankel on that date. It was also noted that Mr. J. Harris, Director General, Jersey Financial Services Commission, would attend the Committee's meeting on Friday 19th June 2009 to discuss the draft legislation. It was agreed that the Financial Services Commission should be requested to provide some points in writing prior to the meeting.

The Committee Clerk was directed to take the necessary action.

Matters arising.

A5. The Committee considered the following matters arising –

- a) the behaviour of States members within the States Chamber. Members agreed to monitor standards of behaviour during States sittings and to advise members of matters of protocol should any problems arise.

- b) the order of business for future States' sittings, and the possibility that the States may need to sit on Monday 13th July 2009 in order to progress business prior to the summer recess.