

STATES OF JERSEY

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JERSEY POST HEADQUARTERS CANTEEN: RESCINDMENT OF PERMISSION

Lodged au Greffe on 12th October 2004
by Deputy C.J. Scott Warren of St. Saviour

STATES GREFFE

PROPOSITION

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

to request the Environment and Public Services Committee to rescind its decision to grant permission to extend the usage of the staff canteen at the Jersey Post Headquarters at Rue des Prés Trading Estate, St. Saviour, to include employees of companies situated on the Trading Estate.

DEPUTY C.J. SCOTT WARREN OF ST. SAVIOUR

REPORT

On 6th October 2004 I attended a meeting of the Environment and Public Services Committee Planning Sub-Committee, at which it was agreed to grant a permit to Jersey Post to extend the usage of their staff canteen at Jersey Postal Headquarters to include employees of other commercial premises at Rue des Prés Trading Estate. The means of entry would be by swipe cards.

When the Trading Estate was established, the Island Development Committee imposed a Covenant on the Estate which specified that no retail should be allowed. This was intended to prevent this area becoming a retail Estate.

States Trading Departments have an unfair advantage over other commercial enterprises. At present Jersey Post does not pay rates.

There are wider implications arising from the granting to Jersey Post of a permit to allow discriminatory access to members of the public. Staff canteens are never very profitable ventures, and there must be other States' Departments and private businesses with canteens which would become financially viable if employees of other businesses in the vicinity were allowed in. Establishments whose core businesses are not food and hospitality will be able to set up as restaurants in direct competition with sandwich bars, cafés and restaurants. This surely cannot be right. If it is, then we should allow restaurants to operate postal services and the like!

We need to enable restaurants, cafés and other food outlets to do well and continue to serve our local community and tourists. If this decision is allowed to stand it will take business away from the hospitality industry, as similar permits are granted. It is bad government for a Committee to breach its own rules as and when it suits it to ignore the Covenant its predecessor had established.

Financial and manpower implications

There may be financial implications to this rescindment. As far as I am aware, there are no manpower implications.