

Education & Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

PUBLIC MEETING

Record of Meeting

Date: 9th July 2007
Meeting 34

Present	Deputy D.W. Mezbourian, Chairman Deputy J. Gallichan, Vice-Chairman Deputy S. Pitman
Apologies	
Absent	
In attendance	Mr. W. Millow, Scrutiny Officer Mr. T. Oldham, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Records of Meetings The Panel approved and signed the records of its meetings of 4th June, 11th June, 13th June, 14th June, 25th June (public and private sessions) 2007 as well as the records of its meetings on 30th April 2007 with the Ministers for Education, Sport and Culture and Home Affairs. It was noted that the records had previously been circulated electronically to Members and had been amended.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to defer consideration of the record of its meeting of 2nd July 2007.</p>	
[02/07/07, Item 1]	<p>2. Rôle of the Centenier in the Magistrate's Court The Panel considered progress on its Scrutiny Review of the rôle of the Centenier in the Magistrate's Court. This part of the meeting was held in private session under Item 3.2.1(a)(xiv) of <i>Code of Practice on Public Access to Official Information</i>.</p>	
[05/07/07, Item 1]	<p>3. Early Years The Panel was advised that there had been no progress in identifying potential candidates for the expert advisor. It was noted that the Scrutiny Officer would follow up this matter.</p> <p>The Panel recalled its previous agreement to contact organisations that would ultimately be invited to Public Hearings in order to outline the Panel's intentions. It was noted that Public Hearings would most likely be held towards the end of September or at the beginning of October 2007.</p> <p>The Panel recalled that the review had been due to finish by the end of October 2007 due to its understanding of the work timetable followed by the Department of Education, Sport and Culture. The Panel was informed that the Department had advised that its work timetable would not require the Panel to have produced its report by the end of October 2007.</p> <p>The Panel was advised that a member of the public had contacted the Chairman in relation to the review.</p>	
[11/06/07, Item 9]	<p>4. Criminal Justice Policy The Panel considered what further action to take regarding the</p>	

	<p>Criminal Justice Policy following correspondence, dated 31st May 2007, from the Minister for Home Affairs. The Panel noted that amendments to Pillar 9 of the Policy might be made as a result of the Panel's comments to the Minister. The Panel agreed that, once the draft Policy had been lodged, it would upload the work it had undertaken on this topic to the Scrutiny website. It was noted that the work could also potentially be circulated to all States Members for their information. The Panel agreed to write to the Minister to advise her of its intended course of action. It further agreed that its correspondence would seek clarification regarding when the Policy would be lodged for debate and whether it was still delayed due to the Minister's desire to await the Panel's Centeniers report.</p>	WM/TO
[25/06/07, Item 5]	<p>5. IMF Visit The Panel considered correspondence from the Minister for Home Affairs, dated 24th May 2007, regarding the work that would be undertaken on draft legislation in preparation for the visit of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 2008. The Panel agreed to write to the Minister to request clarification of when the draft legislation would be lodged and to advise that each item would be considered by the Panel in its usual fashion.</p> <p>The Panel recalled that the Chairman of the Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel had advised the States Assembly that a sub-panel would be formed to investigate money laundering. It was noted that such a review would fall partly within the Panel's remit. The Panel was advised, however, that the Economic Affairs sub-panel would not in fact be reviewing matters that fell within the Education and Home Affairs remit. It was noted that co-ordination of matters such as these lay within the purview of the Chairmen's Committee.</p>	WM/TO
[30/04/07, Item 1(2)c]	<p>6. Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme The Panel considered a paper relating to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (CICS) and noted that correspondence had occurred between the Departments of Home Affairs and Treasury and Resources regarding potential solutions to the problems posed by the Scheme. It was noted that a report might have been presented to the Council of Ministers on this matter; the Officers were requested to clarify this situation.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that further work on this topic would be beneficial and requested the Scrutiny Officers to undertake further research. It was noted that a report produced by the Comptroller and Auditor General, Mr. C. Swinson OBE, on the Criminal Offences Confiscation Fund was potentially relevant to this issue; the Officers were requested to circulate copies.</p>	WM/TO WM/TO WM/TO
	<p>7. Prisoner Repatriation The Panel noted correspondence, dated 11th June 2007, from Senator B.E. Shenton to H.M. Attorney General regarding prisoner repatriation. It was further noted that an article on this subject had recently appeared in the <i>Jersey Evening Post</i>. The Panel was advised by the Chairman that Senator Shenton would continue his work on the topic.</p>	
[25/06/07,	<p>8. Action Updates and Matters Arising The Panel noted the actions undertaken in response to requests made at its previous meetings.</p> <p>The Panel noted that, subsequent to its approval of the record of its meeting with the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture, a</p>	

<p>Item 7]</p> <p>[11/06/07, Item 5]</p>	<p>section of the record would be despatched to the Comptroller and Auditor General, as per the Panel agreement on 25th June 2007.</p> <p>The Panel was advised that a request had been received from the Department of Home Affairs for a date on which to hold the confidential briefing regarding the <i>Regulation of Investigatory Powers Law</i>. It was noted that the briefing would most likely not be held until September or October 2007. The Officers were requested to advise the Department.</p> <p>The Panel was advised of correspondence and information that had recently been received in the Scrutiny Office and that would be placed on to the next agenda.</p> <p>The Panel noted receipt of the briefing notes of the Chairmen's Committee meeting of 29th June 2007.</p>	<p>WM/TO</p> <p>WM/TO</p>
<p>[02/07/07, Item 3]</p>	<p>9. Chairman and Panel Member Actions</p> <p>The Panel received an oral report from the Chairman of her time spent accompanying Officers of the States of Jersey Police during the night shift of 7th – 8th July 2007. The Chairman had seen work undertaken at Police Headquarters and had also accompanied Officers in a patrol car. It was agreed to write to the Chief of Police to thank him for the invitation to the Chairman and to advise that Deputy S. Pitman would also be interested in accompanying Officers during the night shift.</p> <p>The Panel was advised that Professor E. Sallis, Principal of Highlands College, had requested to meet the Chairman.</p>	<p>WM/TO</p>
<p>[30/04/07, Item 3]</p>	<p>10. Social Policy Framework</p> <p>The Panel noted that the Chief Minister, Senator F.H. Walker, had advised the Chairmen's Committee that the Social Policy Framework was a consultative document. The Officers were requested to clarify the situation as this appeared to run counter to the understanding that the Framework was a finalised document.</p>	<p>WM/TO</p>
	<p>11. Future Work Programme</p> <p>The Panel considered its next Scrutiny Review topic. Whilst no specific terms of reference were identified, the Panel agreed that its next review would involve a cross-departmental approach and that it would focus on young people. It was noted that the report emanating from <i>Review of the Principles, Practices and Provision for Children and Young People with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties and Disorders in the Island of Jersey</i> (i.e. the 'Bull Report') might be of relevance; the Officers were requested to circulate copies. The Officers were also requested to examine <i>Strategic Plan 2006 – 2011</i> to identify areas that could potentially provide the focus for a review of the nature that had been agreed.</p>	<p>WM/TO</p> <p>WM/TO</p>
	<p>12. Panel Budget</p> <p>The Panel noted a summary on Panel expenditure for the year to 21st June 2007. The Officers were requested to provide further details on the expenditure.</p>	<p>WM/TO</p>
	<p>13. Ministerial Decisions</p> <p>The Panel noted that the following decisions had been made by the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Final Year BA Fine Art Degree at Highlands College (MD-ESC-2007-0024) – 13th June 2007</i> 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Transfer of Capital Budget and Balances - Vote C3305 Les Chênes (MD-ESC-2007-0023) – 13th June 2007</i> • <i>Financial Support to Students in Higher Education at Highlands College (MD-ESC-2007-0028) – 13th June 2007</i> <p>The Panel noted that the following decisions had been made by Minister for Home Affairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fire and Rescue Service – Health, Safety and Welfare Policy (MD-HA-2007- 0047) – 12th June 2007</i> • <i>Statement as to the number of birth, marriages and deaths registered in the twelve parishes of the Island during 2006 (MD-HA-2007-0045) – 12th June 2007</i> • <i>Submission to the draft States Annual Business Plan 2008 (MD-HA-2007-0046) – 17th June 2007</i> 	
	<p>14. Questions to Ministers The Panel noted that the Minister for Health and Social Services, Senator S. Syvret, and the Chief Minister would answer questions without notice at the States sitting of 16th July 2007.</p> <p>The Panel was advised that the Chairman would table an oral question to the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding the Ministerial Responses to <i>Overdale: The Closure of Leoville and McKinstry Wards (SR1/2007)</i> and <i>The GP Co-Operative Out-of-Hours Service (SR6/2007)</i>.</p>	DM
	<p>15. Media Release The Panel agreed it would not make a media release consequent to the meeting.</p>	
	<p>16. Forthcoming Propositions The Panel agreed that it would not seek to undertake a Scrutiny Review of the following proposition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Draft Unlawful Public Entertainments (Jersey) Regulations 200- (P.72/2007)</i> 	
	<p>17 Future Meetings The Panel agreed it would next meet at 9:30am on 23rd July 2007 at which time it would consider administrative matters, the Centeniers Review and, time permitting, the Early Years Review. It was noted that 26th July 2007 had been set aside for a meeting on the Early Years Review if it became unfeasible to deal with matters on 23rd.</p>	

Signed

Date:

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Chairman
Education & Home Affairs Panel