WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIRMAN OF PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE BY SENATOR J.L. PERCHARD ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2009

Question

Will the Chairman undertake to bring to the States for debate proposals that –

- (a) limit the number of propositions an individual member can lodge for debate in a given period (such as a maximum of 3 per parliamentary session)?
- (b) limit the length of speeches a member can make during a States debate.

Answer

Research has already been carried out in both of these areas, and will be considered by the Privileges and Procedures Committee at its meeting on Friday 20th November 2009.

In respect of (a) the Committee will take into account the amount of time spent during Public Business on policy matters raised by Ministers, private members and Scrutiny Panels, as well as the number of propositions lodged by Ministers, individual members, Committees and Scrutiny Panels. Processes in other jurisdictions will also be taken into account.

With regard to (b) the Committee intends to consider a number of areas, including: time limits on speeches in other jurisdictions; the length of time spent on Public Business; and the growing number of States sittings each year.

The Committee will then decide whether to present proposals to the States for debate.