

STATES OF JERSEY

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DRAFT AMENDMENT (No. 27) TO THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE STATES OF JERSEY (P.171/2004): AMENDMENT

Lodged au Greffe on 12th October 2004
by Senator P.F. Routier

STATES GREFFE

DRAFT AMENDMENT (No. 27) OF THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE STATES OF JERSEY (P.171/2004):
AMENDMENT

PAGE 12, INSERTED STANDING ORDER 12A(4) –

For the words “one clear day” substitute the words “2 clear days”.

SENATOR P.F. ROUTIER

REPORT

The purpose of my amendment to the period of notice required for Oral Questions is to allow one more day to rearrange scheduled meetings and workloads so that a researched and considered answer can be given.

Practically the current trial system and the proposed amendment to Standing Orders allows for an oral question to be submitted on a Friday morning and as I have experienced I have not seen the question until late on Friday when it has been too late to rearrange Monday's meetings and workload. I had to work on Sunday with an officer to ensure that I was prepared to answer the question. It is not appropriate to have to work 7 days a week, and in fact the new Employment (Jersey) Law 2003, when brought into force, will require that workers have one day off in seven. The States should be promoting family-friendly working practices.

I do not believe it is a good use of Presidents' and officers' time to leave Mondays' diaries free on the off-chance that there may be a question or two.

My amendment would, in practice, mean that Oral Questions were delivered to Presidents by early afternoon on the Thursday at the latest which would help to avoid the disruption to the planned work and also allow more opportunity to reschedule Presidents' and Departments' workload.

Financial and manpower implications

There may be a saving in overtime payments.