

PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

(15th Meeting)

20th August 2004PART A

All members were present, with the exception of Deputy P.N. Troy, Deputy C.J. Scott-Warren, from whom apologies had been received.

Deputy R.G. Le Hérisier
 Senator P.V.F. Le Claire
 Connétable D.F. Gray
 Deputy J-A. Bridge
 Deputy J.A. Bernstein

In attendance -

M.N. de la Haye, Greffier of the States
 Mrs. S. Stoten, Committee Clerk

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A only.

Resource Plan –
 proposed
 amendments.
 1038/1/1/59(2)

Pub.Ed.
 States (2)

A1. The Committee, with reference to Act No A13 of its meeting held on 15th July 2004, considered a draft amendment to the Resource Plan.

The Committee recalled that at it had requested the amendment in order that funds could be made available for the establishment of a Hansard system when considering whether to accept its 2005 cash limits. The Committee further recalled that the original decision to introduce an official transcript of the proceedings of the States was taken during the marathon 4 day debate in September 2001 when the decision was taken to move to a ministerial style of government together with a system of scrutiny. On that occasion the States adopted an amendment on this subject brought by the then Deputy Crowcroft by 49 votes to 1. The amendment was accepted during the debate by the Policy and Resources Committee.

Although the Committee made a bid during the Fundamental Spending Review (FSR) process for funds for this purpose no growth was allocated by the Presidents. The Committee expressed concern that it would be impossible to implement the decisions of the States unless funding was allocated and believed that the entire membership of the States, and not just the Presidents taking part in the FSR process, should be asked to consider the matter.

The Committee was of the opinion that a written transcript of States proceedings would be essential if the new system of government was to operate with proper scrutiny and effective accountability.

The Committee was conscious of the financial pressures facing the States but agreed that should funds be agreed it was determined to make every effort to establish the service in the most cost-effective way and, in particular, to exploit new technology to operate the service as cheaply as possible.

The Committee agreed to lodge the amendment to the Resource Plan (due to be

debated on 14th September 2004) to seek the necessary funding to enable the introduction of a 'Hansard' service for the States in accordance with the recommendations of the Clothier Panel and 2 decisions of the States.