

PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

(57th Meeting)

3rd October 2007**PART A**

All members were present.

Connétable D.F. Gray of St. Clement - Chairman
 Senator M.E. Vibert
 Connétable K.A. Le Brun of St. Mary
 Deputy G.C.L. Baudains
 Deputy S.C. Ferguson
 Deputy J. Gallichan
 Deputy I.J. Gorst

In attendance -

M.N. de la Haye, Greffier of the States
 Mrs. A.H. Harris, Deputy Greffier of the States
 Miss P. Horton, Clerk to the Privileges and Procedures Committee

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A and Part B.

Minutes.

A1. The Minutes of the meetings held on 5th September 2007 (Part A and Part B) and 18th September 2007 (Part A only), having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Official
 photographic
 identification.
 465/1(76)

A2. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. A11 of 3rd May 2007, discussed whether all States members should be issued with a form of official identification.

The Committee recalled that the matter of issuing members with photographic identification had been raised by Deputy A.E. Pryke of Trinity. At that time it had been concluded that there was no evidence that this was a major problem for the majority of States members and the matter had not been pursued.

The Committee was advised that as a result of not having a form of official photographic identification some members of the Environment Scrutiny Panel had encountered problems when trying to gain access to certain buildings whilst visiting other jurisdictions. Although it was established that the Panel members had been issued with visiting cards these were also issued to officers who were on the trip and it was opined that States members should be provided with official identification that would distinguish them as politicians.

The Committee advised that it did not want to encourage a situation in which it would become compulsory for all States members to carry official identification with them at all times. However, the Committee agreed that if some members were experiencing problems it might be beneficial to give States members the option to apply for official photographic identification if they felt it was necessary.

The Committee agreed the cost of supplying official photographic identification to States members should be established.

The Greffier of the States was directed to take the necessary action.

States sittings -
adjournment at
5.30 p.m.
1240/2/1(1)

Encl.

A3. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. A4 of 11th April 2007, received and considered a report in connexion with the adjournment of States sittings at 5.30 p.m.

The Committee recalled that it had agreed that it was not satisfactory for States sittings to continue later than 5.30 p.m. rather than come back on a scheduled continuation day, particularly as many members had parish, family or other commitments in the evening and needed to make plans on the basis that the work of the Assembly would conclude by 5.30 p.m. or shortly thereafter. Nevertheless, it was noted that on 11th September 2007 the Assembly voted to carry on and the debate continued uninterrupted. Deputy Gallichan advised the Committee that due to the decision to continue many members of the States had to make last minute childcare arrangements and postpone other commitments. This resulted in Deputy Gallichan having to leave the Chamber and miss some of the summing up of the debate. Deputy Gallichan suggested that if it seemed a debate was going to continue the matter should be raised no later than 5.15 p.m. and a vote taken. If the Assembly voted to continue then a period of recess should ensue to allow members to make any necessary arrangements without missing any part of the debate.

The Committee agreed that it was not satisfactory to continue late into the evening when a continuation meeting was scheduled for the following day although it was recognised that occasionally it could be a very important debate which merited the continuation. The Committee was concerned that asking States members to indicate how much longer they proposed to continue could encourage more members to take part in the debate. However, it was agreed that if it seemed that a debate was going to carry on members would be asked if they wished to continue and if so a short recess would ensue in order to allow members to make any necessary arrangements.

Matters for
information.

A4. The Committee noted the following matters for information -

- (a) correspondence dated 19th September 2007, sent to All Chief Officers/Department Heads regarding the Code of Practice on Public Access to Official Information: Information Asset Register;
- (b) Deputy Gallichan advised the Committee that the working group which had been set up to consider in more detail the proposed recommendations for changes to the Public Elections (Jersey) Law 2002 had met recently. The working group had discussed the recommendations some of which had been accepted and some had been rejected. Deputy Gallichan advised that a report would be prepared for the Committee's consideration;
- (c) the Deputy Greffier of the States advised the Committee that although the Freedom of Information Law had been issued for consultation so far no responses had been received. The Deputy Greffier had reminded departments to respond as soon as possible;
- (d) the Committee confirmed that its next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 17th October 2007, commencing at 9.00 a.m. in the Le Capelain Room, States Building, Royal Square.

