

PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

(48th Meeting)

4th June 2007**PART A**

All members were present, with the exception of Deputy C.H. Egré, from whom apologies had been received.

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 J. Gallichan

In attendance -

M.N. de la Haye, 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.

Vice-Chairman.
 465/1(68)

A1. The Committee, in pursuance of Standing Order 127(3) of the Standing Orders of the States of Jersey, appointed Deputy J. Gallichan as the Vice-Chairman of the Privileges and Procedures Committee.

Composition and
 election of the
 States Assembly.
 465/1(75)

Encl.

A2. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. B3 of 23rd May 2007, resumed consideration of the Composition and Election of the States Assembly.

The Committee recalled that it had concluded that there were only 2 workable options for reform if a general election and 4 year term of office were to be introduced. The 2 options with either an Assembly of Connétables and Deputies or an Assembly of Connétables and members elected in new larger electoral districts. The Committee, having analysed both options in detail, agreed that it would propose the option for an Assembly comprising of Connétables and members elected in new larger electoral districts. Deputy G.C.L. Baudains did not concur with the majority of the Committee and it was agreed that he would lodge a minority amendment to allow the States the opportunity to debate an Assembly comprising of Connétables and Deputies.

In this regard the Committee considered the draft 'Composition of the States: Revised Structure and Referendum' together with the draft 'Composition of the States: Revised Structure and Referendum: Amendment'.

The Committee reiterated its strong view that the public should be provided the opportunity to express an opinion on the proposals and it was hoped that States members would put aside their own personal views and allow the public to have their say in a referendum. Although it was recognised that a referendum was not binding it was hoped that, if a proposed option for reform was favoured, by the public, the States would implement the preferred option.

The Committee, having requested some minor amendments be made to its report and

proposition, accordingly approved the draft 'Composition of the States: Revised Structure and Referendum' and the draft 'Composition of the States: Revised Structure and Referendum: Amendment' and requested that they be lodged 'au Greffe' for debate on 17th July 2007.

The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Greffier of the States for the immense amount of time and work he had contributed during the months of extensive consultation which had taken place.

The Committee agreed that the Chairman should make a statement in the States on 5th June 2007 urging members to consider the arguments for and against the other options and to carefully reflect on its option for reform before coming to any conclusions.

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

States of Jersey
(Powers,
Privileges and
Immunities)
(Committees of
Inquiry) (Jersey)
Regulations 200-
450/8(1)
Encl.

A3. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. A2 of 27th April 2007, received and considered the draft States of Jersey (Powers, Privileges and Immunities) (Committees of Inquiry) (Jersey) Regulations 200-.

The Committee recalled that the States had recently agreed to set up a committee of inquiry to investigate the development of Field 848, 851 and 853, Bel Royal, St. Lawrence. In order to undertake their work effectively it was important that committees of inquiry had adequate statutory powers to call for evidence and it was equally important that the members of the committee and those giving evidence were provided with appropriate legal immunity. These Regulations, made under an enabling power in the States of Jersey Law 2005, would give all the necessary powers and immunities to enable committees of inquiry to undertake their work.

The Committee accordingly approved the draft States of Jersey (Powers, Privileges and Immunities) (Committees of Inquiry) (Jersey) Regulations 200- and requested that it be lodged 'au Greffe' at the earliest opportunity for debate on 17th July 2007.

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