

Privileges and Procedures Committee

Machinery of Government Sub-Committee

(5th Meeting)

20th December 2023

Part A (Non-Exempt)

All members were present.

Deputy L.V. Feltham of St Helier Central, Chair
Deputy T.A. Coles of St Helier South, Vice-Chair
Deputy A. Howell of St John, St Lawrence and Trinity
Deputy H.L. Jeune of St John, St Lawrence and Trinity
Connétable R. Vibert of St Peter

In attendance –

Mr. Y. Fillieul, Assistant Greffier
Miss. K. Boydens, Principal Committee and Panel Officer
Miss. J. Lepp, Research and Project Officer

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A

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| Apologies. | A1. No apologies were received. |
| Minutes. | A2. The Sub-Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2023. |
| Democratic Accountability and Governance Sub-Committee Recommendations. | A3. The Sub-Committee noted that it was awaiting a response from the Chief Minister regarding the Democratic Accountability and Governance Sub-Committee recommendations. The Principal Committee and Panel Officer advised that the response was due to be received later that day. The Sub-Committee agreed to discuss the response at the January 2024 meeting. |
| Law Drafting Training. | A4. The Sub-Committee noted that the Legislative Drafting Office had previously offered law drafting training to States Members, however, due to attendance levels, the session had become unviable. The Research and Project Officer was requested to contact the Principal Legislative Drafter to ask whether additional training sessions could be organised for members. It was the Sub-Committee's view that full day sessions could cause difficulties for members due to other meetings, therefore, it was also agreed that the Principal Legislative Drafter would be asked whether the training could be condensed to half day sessions. |
| | The Sub-Committee also received a copy of the guidance produced by the Legislative Drafting Office and requested that this was circulated to all States Members on the dedicated Teams Channel. The Research and Project Officer was tasked to take the necessary action. |
| Maximum | A5. The Sub-Committee discussed broader constitutional reform following |

Number of Members to Panels	correspondence from Deputy M.B Andrews regarding introducing a maximum number of members to Panels and agreed that it was not currently a priority for the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee's view was that it should be up to the Chair of a Committee or Panel to solve any potential issues such as whether there will be a quorum during meetings. Currently, the Sub-Committee's priority was addressing the DAG recommendations. It was agreed that Deputy Andrews would be advised accordingly.
Timing of appointments in the States Assembly.	<p>A6. The Sub-Committee considered a paper on the timing of appointments in the States Assembly and in particular whether there should be a requirement for the Chief Minister to disclose the identities of both Ministers and Assistant Ministers before nominations for the Chairs of Scrutiny Panel were made. The Sub-Committee agreed that more information was required on how other jurisdictions handled the timing of appointments. The Research and Project Officer was tasked to produce a paper regarding this at the January 2024 meeting.</p> <p>On a related matter, the Sub-Committee queried whether the Chief Minister had the power to move Ministerial portfolios without States approval. The Research and Project Officer was tasked to research the matter and advise the Sub-Committee accordingly at the next meeting.</p>
Ministerial Orders.	<p>A7. The Sub-Committee discussed Ministerial Orders, which were subordinate enactments made by Ministers. The Sub-Committee raised a number of queries regarding the process of Orders and how members were notified of new ones. The Assistant Greffier (Chamber and Members' Support) advised that members could subscribe to the Jersey Law website which would notify them when new legislation, including Orders, were published. The Sub-Committee agreed that this would be beneficial and the Assistant Greffier was requested to signpost members to this facility.</p> <p>The Principal Committee and Panel Officer advised the Sub-Committee that a paper had been produced for a previous meeting which included more information on Ministerial Orders and suggested that this was recirculated to the Sub-Committee on Teams.</p>
Future Meetings.	A7. The Sub-Committee confirmed that its next meeting would be on Wednesday 24 th January 2024 from 9am to 10am. The Chair advised that Deputy R.E. Binet had requested to meet the Sub-Committee to discuss a number of matters relating to the machinery of government. It was agreed that Deputy Binet would be invited to attend the next meeting and the Research and Project Officer was asked to make the necessary arrangements.