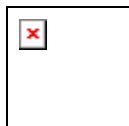


STATISTICS USERS GROUP: APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

**Lodged au Greffe on 22nd August 2000
by the Policy and Resources Committee**



STATES OF JERSEY

STATES GREFFE

180

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PROPOSITION

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion -

to refer to their Act dated 17th November 1999, in which they approved the establishment of a Statistics User Group and to approve the appointment of Professor Tim Holt CB as Chairman of the Statistics Users Group for a period of three years commencing on 15th September 2000 on the terms set out in paragraph 4 of the report of the Committee dated 15th August 2000.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

REPORT

1. Introduction

The Policy and Resources Committee proposes the appointment of Professor Tim Holt, CB for a period of three years from 15th September 2000 as Chairman of the Statistics Users Group.

2. Background

2.1 The formation of a Statistics Users Group was approved by the States on 17th November 1999 on a proposition from the Committee (P.142/99). The Group will keep under review the arrangements for the production and dissemination of statistical information to ensure that methods used are sound, that the outputs are free from political interference and that a fair balance is struck between satisfying the need for statistical information and the burden on the suppliers of data. The intention is that this will lead to a more integrated and coherent statistical system for Island statistics. The Group will not be limited to the statistics prepared by the Policy and Resources Department but may review any of the Island's official statistics and make recommendations on any statistical matter referred to it by the States or any States Committee. The Group will have no executive function.

2.2 The States agreed that a Chairman should be appointed for a period of three years by the States on the recommendation of the Committee. The Chairman should be neither a Member of the States nor an officer of a department of the States. This Committee agreed on 6th April that a statistician of eminence and repute should be found to fulfil the role of Chairman. The advice of the President of the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) was sought in this respect and Professor Holt of the University of Southampton was invited to Jersey for discussions with the Chief Executive and the Head of Statistics of the Policy and Resources Department.

3. Professor Holt

3.1 Professor Holt has had a distinguished career, mainly in the academic world, but also in Statistics Canada and, for the last five years, as Director of the Office for National Statistics in London, Head of the United Kingdom Government Statistical Service and Registrar General. Earlier this year he returned to Southampton University as Professor of Social Statistics. He has numerous honours and distinctions in the field of statistics and was made a Companion of the Bath in the New Year Honours List.

3.2 On 13th July 2000 the Committee considered a report from the Head of Statistics proposing that it should recommend the appointment of Professor Holt as Chairman of the Statistics Users Group. The Committee agreed that he was eminently suitable for the role and decided to present to the States a report and proposition seeking his appointment, through the intermediary of the Finance and Economics Committee, so that that Committee's report would be published with the proposition.

4. Terms of appointment

4.1 It is proposed that Professor Holt be appointed for a period of three years with an honorarium of £5,000 per annum, commencing September 2000. This would cover his presence in the Island for four to six days per year to chair meetings of the Group, and any associated preparatory work. In addition the Department would cover his travel and subsistence costs. If there were other calls on his time for additional activities these would be recompensed separately at a comparable rate. These costs will be met from within the existing cash limits of the Committee.

5. Manpower implications

5.1 There are no implications for the manpower resources of the States.

6. Recommendation

6.1 The Committee would recommend that the States -

approve the appointment of Professor Tim Holt as Chairman of the Statistics Users Group for a period of three years commencing on 15th September 2000 on the terms set out in paragraph 4 of this Report.