STATES OF JERSEY



FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER STATEMENTS IN PROPOSITIONS: REVISED PROCEDURES (P.92/2010) – COMMENTS

Presented to the States on 22nd September 2010 by the Privileges and Procedures Committee

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC) is grateful to Deputy P.V.F. Le Claire for raising this issue, but does not support his proposition in its current form.

The Committee recognises the valid concern of members who have to wait for a lengthy period to receive information from Ministers/Departments and therefore supports the principle of the Deputy's suggestion. It nevertheless believes that the adoption of the proposition as drafted could result in deficient propositions being lodged "au Greffe" for debate by the States.

The Committee agrees that Standing Order 21 should be amended to provide a timescale within which a Minister must assist a member; however, it is not content with the proposal that a response should be received within 7 days. It could be argued that a 14-day deadline for ministerial responses would be preferable to ensure that sufficient research is carried out in advance of the information being provided.

Any amendment to Standing Order 21 needs to introduce a mechanism whereby members will be able to rely upon the information provided as being complete and accurate at the time of lodging. The Committee will therefore undertake a brief review of the current function of Standing Order 21 to establish the cause and extent of the problem with financial and manpower statements. Once an effective solution has been identified, the Committee undertakes to lodge a proposition to amend the Standing Order accordingly.