

# STATES OF JERSEY



Jersey

## **DRAFT AMENDMENT (NO. 41) OF THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE STATES OF JERSEY**

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**Lodged au Greffe on 29th July 2019  
by the Privileges and Procedures Committee**

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**STATES GREFFE**



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## REPORT

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1. If adopted, this amendment to Standing Orders would replace any reference to a ‘chairman’ or ‘chairmen’ with the term ‘chair’ or ‘chairs’ in respect of the following bodies –
  - Public Accounts Committee
  - Privileges and Procedures Committee
  - Planning Committee
  - Jersey Overseas Aid Commission
  - Any scrutiny panel or review panel
  - Committee of Inquiry
2. In practice, the formal designation of the term ‘Chair’ is not intended to restrict a post-holder from informally using a variation of that title. As happens presently, he or she may, for example, choose to use Chairman, Chairwoman, Chairperson or other variations in correspondence or at meetings. Notwithstanding this flexibility however, for the purposes of formal Assembly documents such as statements and questions and formal exchanges in the Chamber itself, all references would be to ‘Chair(s)’.
3. This amendment arises from the work of the Chairmen’s Committee, which, amongst other improvements and updates to Standing Orders relating to the scrutiny function, has given consideration to matters of gender equality. The Chairmen’s Committee has identified what it has described as these “small but significant ‘quick wins’ relating to frequently used terminology in Standing Orders”<sup>1</sup> (see **Appendix**).
4. It comes within the context of the centenary anniversary of the ‘Franchise Bill’ (the Loi (1919) sur les Droits Electoraux). This was the legislation that enabled women who were both over the age of 30 and ratepayers to vote for the first time in Jersey. It was the start of a series of milestones for democratic equality between the genders. However, since 1948 344 men have served in the States Assembly compared to just 45 women. Today just 14 out of 49 of the elected members of States Assembly are women. The proportion is lower than in many other democracies.
5. Additionally, this amendment complements the work of the Diversity Forum, which, having worked with the support of PPC, is concurrently reporting the findings of its own States Assembly Gender Audit. Amongst its objectives, the Forum aims to ensure that the support and facilities available for States Members, and the Assembly’s framework of rules, encourage the development of a diverse and inclusive Assembly.
6. The overarching objective of this amendment is to contribute to such progress, specifically in this case de-gendering Standing Orders as befits a modern parliament. The proposed change has a number of precedents elsewhere, for example the UK House of Commons where the same alteration in terminology was implemented in 2010.

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from President of Chairmen’s Committee to PPC, 5th July 2019 (see Appendix)

7. Furthermore, the amendment is in keeping with the Island's statute book which was de-gendered in 2004, meaning that the only references to a gender are those that are explicitly relevant, such as legislation relating to pregnancy. Jersey's various constitutional statutes, such as the [States of Jersey Law 2005](#), also pay no regard to gender.
8. The amendment includes a consequential change to the title of the 'Chairmen's Committee', which would be renamed the 'Scrutiny Liaison Committee'. As well as addressing the matter of gender neutrality, the amended title better reflects the remit of the Committee, assisting its public engagement and transparency.

### **Financial and manpower implications**

There are no financial or manpower implications arising from the adoption of this Amendment to Standing Orders.

## APPENDIX TO REPORT

**Letter from the Chairmen's Committee to the  
Privileges and Procedures Committee**

States of Jersey  
States Assembly



États de Jersey  
Assemblée des États

Deputy R. Labey  
Chairman, Privileges and Procedures Committee

By email

5th July 2019

Dear Deputy Labey,

**Gender Neutral Titles: Standing Orders**

In the context of the excellent 'Votes for Women' project and a host of other local and wider initiatives highlighting historic and current gender inequality, the Chairmen's Committee has been considering whether such issues are reflected within the scrutiny function. Whilst this will be an ongoing process, we have identified some small but significant 'quick wins' relating to frequently used terminology in Standing Orders. We would anticipate they are non-contentious, mirroring changes to titles that have already been made in other jurisdictions (such as the UK House of Commons).

The specific proposed changes identified are as follows:

- Replace the official title 'Chairman' with 'Chair'.

As is the case now, this would not restrict a post-holder from informally using a variation of that title (Chairman, Chairwoman, Chairperson etc), but at the very least it is a significant symbolic step towards more appropriately neutral official terminology.

For transparency I should relay that Senator Ferguson does not support this part of the Committee's proposals.

- Change the title of the 'Chairmen's Committee' to 'Scrutiny Liaison Committee'

Essentially a consequence of the point above, but also a public engagement opportunity to better reflect the purpose of the Committee.

I am pleased to be able to forward you a complete draft of the necessary amendment to Standing Orders to bring these changes into effect. It was initially our intention to lodge the amendment ourselves, but on reflection we agreed that as Panels and Committees beyond Scrutiny would be subject to the changes, not least your own, it would be more appropriate to request PPC to undertake this final stage. I very much hope you will agree.

I am happy to answer any questions or points of clarification, and look forward to giving the proposals my full support in the Assembly in due course.

Yours sincerely,  
Senator Kristina Moore, President, Chairmen's Committee



**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

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The Draft Amendment (No. 41) of the Standing Orders of the States of Jersey will amend the name of the chairmen's committee to the "scrutiny liaison committee"; replace references to a "chairman" or "chairmen" of a committee or panel created under the standing orders with references to a "chair" or "chairs", and ensure conformity with other enactments which refer to a "chairman" or "chairmen" of a committee or panel created under the standing orders.





Jersey

## DRAFT AMENDMENT (No. 41) OF THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE STATES OF JERSEY

Made [date to be inserted]  
Coming into force [date to be inserted]

**THE STATES** make the following Amendment to the Standing Orders of the States of Jersey<sup>1</sup> under Article 48 of the States of Jersey Law 2005<sup>2</sup> –

### 1 Interpretation

In these Amendments, a reference to a standing order by number is a reference to the standing order of that number in the Standing Orders of the States of Jersey<sup>3</sup>.

### 2 Standing order 1 (interpretation) amended

After standing order 1(3) there is inserted –

“(4) A reference in any other enactment to the “chairman” or “chairmen”, as the case may be, of the Public Accounts Committee, the Privileges and Procedures Committee, the Planning Committee, the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission, a scrutiny panel, a review panel or a Committee of Inquiry shall be construed for the purposes of these Standing Orders as a reference to the “chair” or “chairs” of that Committee or panel, as the case may be.”.

### 3 Change of name of "chairmen's committee"

- (1) In standing order 1(1) –
  - (a) the definition “chairmen’s committee” is deleted;
  - (b) after the definition “review panel”, there is inserted –

“ “scrutiny liaison committee” means the committee of that name established by standing orders;”.
- (2) In every standing order in which “chairmen’s committee” occurs, there are substituted for those words “scrutiny liaison committee”.

### 4 Substitution of "chairman" with "chair"

In every standing order in which “chairman” or “chairmen” occurs –

- (a) for “chairman”, in every place where it occurs, there is substituted “chair”;
- (b) for “chairmen”, there is substituted “chairs”.

## **5 Citation and commencement**

This Amendment may be cited as Amendment (No. 41) of the Standing Orders of the States of Jersey 201- and comes into force on the day after it is made.

## ENDNOTES

### Table of Endnote References

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<i>1</i>	<i>chapter 16.800.15</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>chapter 16.800</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>chapter 16.800.15</i>