

STATES OF JERSEY



AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS – THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PPC SUB- COMMITTEES (P.46/2023): COMMENTS

Presented to the States on 8th September 2023
by the Privileges and Procedures Committee

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The Council of Ministers welcomes the establishment of permanent sub-Committees of the Privileges and Procedures Committee (“PPC”) as proposed by P.46 and the flexibility that the proposition allows for the establishment of further sub-Committees.

Sub-Committees provide opportunity for Members of the Assembly to discuss improvements in the areas for which the Committee is responsible.

We should encourage constructive political engagement between Members who often have different political views, supporting consensus and understanding.

Indeed, across a wide range of topics, including public policy as well as governance, fora where all Members can work together in the best interests of Jersey are beneficial and should be promoted.

With reference to the sub-Committee’s included in the proposition, while we have made constructive progress and change, we need to ensure that as Members we continue to promote an Assembly, government, and civil society, that is diverse, tolerant, and inclusive. We have much more to do.

With respect to the Machinery of Government, the Chief Minister is responsible within the Executive branch of Government for constitutional reform and strengthening democracy. Having a sub-Committee within which proposals from government can be discussed is helpful.

More broadly, how we support all Members as constituency representatives is a case-in-point for areas where Ministers and backbenchers can work together constructively on an issue of shared purpose and importance.

By working together, we can aim to avoid some of the trends we see elsewhere where politics seems to have become increasingly polarised, tribal, and personal, and instead provide places where Members can work together on the issues that impact how we represent and support the needs of Islanders.

This proposition on sub-Committees is positive in supporting such outcomes and is therefore welcomed by Ministers.