

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES
COMMITTEE BY DEPUTY P.V.F. LE CLAIRE OF ST. HELIER**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 15th MAY 200

Question

- (a) Has the Committee considered the position of the unelected members of the States as part of the reform proposals and, if so, on how many occasions?
- (b) What possible proposals for change, if any, have been discussed by the Committee?
- (c) Have any background papers relating to the position of the un-elected members of the States been prepared and if so when will these papers be circulated to members for consultation?

Answer

- (a) The present Privileges and Procedures Committee has only considered the position of the unelected members of the States on one occasion since it was appointed in December 2005. On that occasion the Committee agreed that the position of the unelected members was a matter that the Committee did not wish to address at the present time as the Committee's priority is to try to find an acceptable solution on the reform of the composition and election of the States in relation to the elected members.

The Committee's view is that any attempt to consider the position of the unelected members during the on-going process of seeking to reform the overall composition of the Assembly would merely complicate an already difficult issue when there is no evidence of any significant public or political pressure to change the current rôle of these members. The Committee is therefore concentrating its efforts on the position of the elected members and, notwithstanding the outcome of the debates at the last meeting, will be publishing a further report on that matter in the near future.

Any investigation into the position of the unelected members, namely the Bailiff, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, the Attorney General, the Solicitor General and the Dean, would raise very fundamental issues relating to the Island's constitution and relationship with the Crown. All of these offices have a long historical significance for Jersey and even small changes to part of the rôle of these members could have wide ramifications. Although PPC has not ruled out the possible need for a review in due course any such review would need to be undertaken with great care and could not be undertaken by the Committee alone. It is probable that the most appropriate way to undertake a review would be establish some form of independent review body with appropriately qualified members.

- (b) and (c)

As stated above there are no current proposals relating to the unelected members and, as a result, no papers have been prepared.