

STATES OF JERSEY



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ELECTED MEMBERS: COMPLAINT AGAINST SENATOR S. SYVRET

**Presented to the States on 5th December 2008
by the Privileges and Procedures Committee**

STATES GREFFE

REPORT

On Monday 1st December 2008, the Privileges and Procedures Committee concluded its investigation under Standing Orders into a complaint arising out of an exchange of e-mails between Senators F.E. Cohen and S. Syvret.

The e-mail exchange took place in August of this year in the context of an exchange relating to exemptions to the Goods and Services Tax. Senator Cohen then complained to PPC under the “Code of Conduct for Elected Members of the States” about a remark made during the exchange by Senator Syvret.

The matter was considered by the Committee in accordance with Standing Order 157(1) as a possible breach of the Code. Having decided that there was a case to answer, the Committee accordingly invited Senator Syvret to exercise his right to be heard at its meeting of 1st December 2008. Senator Cohen was also informed of the Committee’s decision.

Senator Syvret did not attend the meeting, and the matter was therefore adjudicated upon by the Committee in his absence.

The Committee decided to uphold Senator Cohen’s complaint. It considered that Senator Syvret’s use of language had been insulting and fell far short of the standards of courtesy and respect for a colleague that should be expected between members.

The Committee did not propose taking any further action in the matter. However, it would urge all members to be aware of the tone and language used in messages to colleagues and remind the Assembly that paragraph 5 of the Code of Conduct requires all members to –

“treat other members of the States, officers and members of the public with respect and courtesy and without malice, notwithstanding the disagreements on issues and policy which are a normal part of the political process”.