

STATES OF JERSEY



STATES MEMBERS' REMUNERATION: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2009

**Presented to the States on 18th November 2008
by the Privileges and Procedures Committee**

STATES GREFFE

REPORT

The Privileges and Procedures Committee has received the attached letter from the Chairman of the States Members' Remuneration Review Body (see Appendix). The new membership of the Body was approved by the States on 22nd October 2008 and, as can be seen from the letter, the Body has now agreed how it is going to approach its task. In addition the Body has already made an interim recommendation for 2009 remuneration.

Under the terms of reference of the Body as agreed by the States, the Privileges and Procedures Committee is required to present any recommendations on the level of remuneration to the States and, unless a proposition is lodged within a month challenging the recommendations, they are implemented by default. The Committee is therefore presenting this recommendation to the States and the revised maximum remuneration figure for 2009 of **£40,382** plus an expenses allowance of **£3,650** will be applied from January unless it is challenged by 18th December 2008.

Connétable D.F. Gray,
Chairman,
Privileges and Procedures Committee,
c/o States Greffe.

6th November 2008

Dear Connétable,

Following the appointment of the members of the States Members Remuneration Review Body (SMRRB) on 21st October 2008 the Body has met to begin its work.

The Body is determined to undertake its task on making recommendations for the next three years in a rigorous and objective manner. We wish to consult extremely widely with all sections of the community and to receive input from all members of the States. As requested by the States we will also consider the desirability or otherwise of some pension arrangement for States Members although we recognise that any final decision on that issue is a matter for elected members once our recommendations are produced.

When considering the timescale for our work the Body realised that it would be extremely difficult to undertake the type of evidence gathering process that we wish to follow before the end of 2008. Many elected members will be engaged in elections until late November and all members of the States will then be extremely busy in early December with the Budget debate and, following the constitution of the new Assembly, the process of appointing members to the various positions of ministerial and scrutiny responsibility.

The SMRRB does not believe that we could undertake our work in a comprehensive manner if we attempted to complete our work this year. We take the view that it is somewhat illogical to consult only with members of the outgoing States when many new members may be joining the Assembly in December. We have therefore decided to defer the evidence gathering process until the beginning of 2009 when new States Members are in office.

We are currently working on the preparation of a discussion document setting out relevant issues relating to pay for elected members and we intend to issue this in the early part of 2009 to stimulate public comments. Once the discussion document has been issued we will also seek views from all members of the States and hold one or more public meetings. We hope to be in a position to consider the evidence received and present our final recommendations in time for the process to be concluded before the summer recess of 2009.

Having agreed the above timescale the Body was nevertheless extremely conscious that the current pay recommendations for 2006 to 2008 expire at the end of this year and no increase in Members' pay can be made until the Body makes a recommendation. We have therefore decided that it is appropriate to make an interim recommendation for an increase from 1st January 2009. Having taken account of our terms of reference as approved by the States we recommend an interim increase of £1,000 on the basic level of remuneration from 1st January 2009 taking this element of the total remuneration package from its current figure of £39,382 to £40,382. We are not recommending any increase in the current expense allowance of £3,650 as, although we intend to review this figure carefully in the New Year, we do not believe it is appropriate to recommend any change without considering detailed evidence about the level of expenses currently incurred by Members.

The Body would be grateful if your Committee could present this recommendation to the States as soon as possible as required. In this way the one month period during which the recommendations can be challenged through the lodging of a proposition can begin and, if there is no challenge, the proposed increase can be implemented from the beginning of January. Please feel free to include the full text of this letter in your report to the Assembly as this will also enable members to be informed of our proposed approach to the task we have been given.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Rogers
Chairman