



| States Assembly

Diversity Forum (PPC Sub-Committee)
States Greffe

Deputy Sam Mézec
President of the Scrutiny Liaison Committee
20th April 2023

Dear Deputy Mézec

Gender Balance on Scrutiny Panels and Committees

Since it was reconstituted, the Diversity Forum has been reviewing a number of actions made by the previous Forum which were presented in its 2022 Legacy Report. Although a number of principal achievements were made by the previous Forum, including the publication of a gender sensitive audit of the States Assembly, there were also a number of outstanding matters which this Forum would like to take forward.

One of the actions is to ensure that all Scrutiny Panels and Committees contain at least one man and one woman. At the time this suggestion was made, the number of female States Members was low - 14 in 2018. Now that the States Assembly is more equal in terms of gender composition (21 female States Members), the Forum wondered whether there should be a formal mechanism put in place to ensure a gender balance on all Scrutiny Panels and Committees.

The Forum would welcome the Scrutiny Liaison Committee's view on how we could achieve this. For example, in order to make the roles more easily understood and accessible, would role descriptors be beneficial? Or should there be a responsibility on Panel/Committee Chairs to say who they approached for membership and to provide an explanation when Panels/Committees are not gender balanced? Or would there be any merit in introducing gender quotas to ensure equal representation?

Although the current Assembly is more gender balanced than in previous years, it's not to say that future Assemblies will be. Therefore, the Forum also wondered whether the importance of achieving a gender balance on Panels/Committees should be highlighted to potential Scrutiny Chairs through the induction programme.

We would welcome your views on this, and the other points raised in this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Carina Alves
Chair
Diversity Forum (PPC) Sub-Committee