

Meeting of the Access to Justice Review Expert Group

held on Friday 2nd May 2014
at 12:00 in the Meeting Room, 9th Floor, Cyril Le Marquand House, St Helier

Attendees

Mr T. Walker, Chief Minister's Department (Chair)
Mr S. Cartwright, Chief Minister's Department
Mr T. Le Cocq, Attorney General
Advocate V. Dempsey, Law Officers' Department
Mr M. Ferey, Citizens Advice Bureau
Ms A. King, Jersey Consumer Council
Advocate O. Blakeley, Jersey Chamber of Commerce
Advocate J. Speck, President, Law Society of Jersey
Mr N. Benbow, Law Society of Jersey
Mr D. Cadin, Bâtonnier

Welcome

1. The Chairman welcomed the Group to the second meeting.

Advisory Panel Meeting 8 May 2014

2. The Group noted that the second meeting of the Advisory Panel was forthcoming and that the main focus of the meeting was likely to be the Call for Evidence (item 4 refers).

Royal Court Rules Review Group

3. The Group noted the advertisement placed on 31 March 2014 by the Royal Court Rules Review Group inviting members of the public and the legal profession to submit, by 15 May 2014, any suggestions as to areas, issues or improvements in procedure which should be considered. The Chairman of the Advisory Panel would liaise with the Deputy Bailiff regarding the possible sharing of evidence submitted to the respective reviews.

Call for Evidence

4. A draft document was considered by the Group. A number of revisions were agreed in order to make the document more accessible. Suggestions had also been received from Mr P. Matthews, Judicial Greffe, in advance of the meeting. It was agreed that the document would be entitled 'Invitation to comment in writing'. As well as a note of caution regarding matters that might be subject to sub-judice rules, it was thought that there should be a note regarding defamation. Any submissions which contained such content would need to be reviewed by the Chief Ministers' Department in order to determine if they could still be used as evidence and whether specific complaints needed to be directed towards the relevant authorities. The Chief Minister's Department may need to seek advice from the Law Officers' Department regarding any submissions including such content. It was thought that there was probably no need to write to specific organisations seeking submissions given that the call for evidence would be publicised.

Any Other Business

5. The Group noted that the web pages on gov.je were now up and running.
<http://www.gov.je/CrimeJustice/AccessToJusticeReview/Pages/index.aspx>

Date of Next Meeting

6. The Group was advised that there were some adjustments necessary to the meeting schedule. The date of the next meeting would be fixed in due course, probably for around the end of June.

ENDS
14 May 2014