

Meetings of the Access to Justice Review Advisory Panel

Held on 15th September and 29th September 2017
at Cyril Le Marquand House, St Helier

Attendees (for one or both meetings)

Senator P.F. Routier M.B.E. (Chair)
Connétable J. Gallichan
Deputy M. Tadier
Connétable D.W. Mezbourian
Deputy J.A. Hilton

Officers in attendance (for one or both meetings): Mr T. Walker, Mr P. Matthews, Mr D. Dixon, Mr W. Lakeman and Mr D. Le Marquand.

Welcome and apologies

1. The Chairman noted apologies and welcomed officers to the meeting.

Expert Group Meeting

2. The Panel received a report back from the Expert Group meeting on 14th September and 26th September, which included feedback from officers on points raised at the Panel meeting held on 21st August.

Review of the Legal Aid Scheme

2. The Panel considered documents supplied by the Law Society which described the further refinements to the proposed Scheme. This included further consideration of refined proposals in relation to a number of aspects of the proposed Scheme, including income eligibility thresholds, personal contributions, and assistance for vulnerable adults.
4. The Panel also received updates from officers regarding the public funding mechanisms, the arrangements for social security clients, and the legislative changes required to implement the new scheme
5. The Panel indicated that, subject to the further changes requested, it would be content for the further revised Scheme to be considered by the Council of Ministers as the next step.

Next steps

7. The Panel decided upon a schedule for the second phase of work, which included the consideration of the proposals by the Council of Ministers in October, followed by the submission of law drafting instructions and an officer briefing for Scrutiny on the proposals. The draft legislation would be developed and considered by officers and the Law Society in December. Further meetings of the Expert Group and Advisory Panel would take place in January 2018 in order to consider the draft law, following which, the Chief Minister would consider lodging the draft law with the States Assembly for consideration in March 2018.

Any other business

8. There was no other business considered at this meeting.

ENDS