

Meeting of the Access to Justice Review Advisory Panel

held on Monday 8th May 2014
at 13:30 in the Concord Room, 4th Floor, Cyril Le Marquand House, St Helier

Attendees

Senator P.F. Routier, M.B.E. (Chair)
Senator L.J. Farnham
Deputy M. Tadier of St. Brelade
Deputy J.H. Young of St. Brelade

Also in attendance: Mr T. Walker and Mr S. Cartwright, Chief Minister's Department.

Welcome

1. The Chairman welcomed the members to the second meeting of the Panel.

Webpage on gov.je

2. The Panel were advised that the web page for the Review was now up and running on the gov.je website. The web page includes the terms of reference and the minutes from the Advisory Panel and Expert Group meetings. The 'Invitation to comment in writing' will also be published on this page, as will the submissions received.

<http://www.gov.je/CrimeJustice/AccessToJusticeReview/Pages/index.aspx>

Expert Group

3. The Panel noted that the minutes of first meeting of the Group on 28 March 2014 had been published on gov.je. The minutes for the second meeting held on 2 May 2014 were due to be published next week. The Panel were advised that main focus at the meeting of the Group had been on preparing the draft 'Invitation to comment in writing' document (item 5 refers).

Royal Court Rules Review Group

4. The Panel noted the advertisement published on 31 March 2014 on behalf of the *Royal Court Rules Review Group*, inviting members of the public and the legal profession to suggest areas, issues or changes to procedure which should be considered. The Chairman would continue to liaise with the Deputy Bailiff and would explore the options for sharing submissions.

Invitation to comment in writing (call for evidence)

5. The Panel considered a draft *Invitation to comment in writing* document, which had been considered by the Expert Group. The Panel made some suggestions regarding the wording and presentation of the document. The Chairman would issue a press release to highlight that the Review was now able to receive written comments. It was agreed that the Chief Ministers' Department should acknowledge receipt of all submissions received. There was a discussion regarding the handling of submissions which may include comments which were either defamatory or sub-judice. It was agreed that the Chief Minister's Department would aim to circulate all comments received whilst seeking legal advice from the Law Officers' Department when necessary.

Any Other Business

6. The Panel considered the overall timetable for the Review and expressed a desire to continue to aim for a position whereby the Chief Minister would be able to present an Interim Report to the States Assembly in July.

Date of Next Meeting

7. The Panel noted the need to adjust the timing of the next meeting in order to accommodate the overall review timetable. It was anticipated that the next meeting of the Panel would be at the start of July. A date would also be set for a Public Hearing later in July.

ENDS

14 May 2014