

Meeting of the Access to Justice Review Advisory Panel

held on Friday 4th July 2014
at 14:00 in the Concord Room, 4th Floor, Cyril Le Marquand House, St Helier

Attendees

Senator P.F. Routier, M.B.E. (Chair)
Connétable J. Gallichan of St. Mary
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 third meeting of the Panel.

Invitation to comment in writing – submissions and summary

2. The Panel considered the written comments which had been received. It was agreed that these were to be published on the review's web pages on the www.gov.je site (link below). The Panel also considered a draft summary of the comments. It was agreed that the summary would be included within the forthcoming Interim Report.

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

Factual description of the legal aid system

3. The Panel noted that the terms of reference for the review asks that a description is produced of the current system of legal aid in the Island. The Panel considered a draft description which had been produced with the assistance of the Law Society and the Judicial Greffe. It was agreed that this would be published on the review's web pages on the www.gov.je site.

Interim Report

4. The Panel confirmed the intention to publish an Interim Report by the end of July, which would include a summary of the written comments received. The Panel agreed that the report would also include reference to the Public Hearing to be held on 11th July 2014 and that further work would be undertaken before a Final Report is produced in 2015. The Interim Report would be tabled at a forthcoming Council of Ministers meeting on 11th July 2014 before being presented to the States Assembly by the Chief Minister.

Public Hearing on 11th July 2014

5. The Panel noted that the Le Capelain Room in the States building had been booked for the afternoon of Friday 11 July in order that an initial Public Hearing could be conducted. It was agreed that the hearing would provide an opportunity to hear more about some of the interesting and positive ideas for change which some respondents had proposed. The Panel considered which of the ideas submitted they may wish to explore further and so which people and organisations might be invited to attend. It was agreed that the hearing would be held in public, that a press release would be issued beforehand and that a transcript of the hearing would be produced and published on the review's web pages on the www.gov.je site.

The Panel discussed that it would be helpful to encourage more ideas for positive change and it was agreed that further such submissions would be invited.

Expert Group Meeting

6. The Panel received an update on the last Expert Group meeting held on Friday 27th June, which had focussed on the preparation of the draft summary of written comments and the factual description of the legal aid system.

Royal Court Rules Review Group

7. The Panel noted that a reply was expected from the Deputy Bailiff regarding the sharing of evidence between respective reviews and it was understood that the Royal Court Rules Review Group would be meeting in the coming months to consider their recommendations.

ENDS

18 July 2014