

Council of Ministers

(28th Meeting)

5th November 2024**Part A (Non-Exempt)**

All members were present, with the exception of Deputy M.E. Millar of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Treasury and Resources, from whom apologies had been received.

Deputy L.J. Farnham of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Chief Minister
 Connétable R. Vibert of St. Peter, Minister for Children and Families
 Connétable A.N. Jehan of St. John, Minister for Infrastructure (for items A1-A3, B1 and part of B3 only)
 Deputy C.F. Labey of Grouville and St. Martin, Minister for International Development
 Deputy S.G. Luce of Grouville and St. Martin, Minister for the Environment (for items B2-B4 only – Living wage onward)
 Deputy K.F. Morel of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Sustainable Economic Development
 Deputy M.R. Le Hegarat of St. Helier North, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs (for items A1-A2 only)
 Deputy R.J. Ward of St. Helier Central, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning
 Deputy I.J. Gorst of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Minister for External Relations
 Deputy S.Y. Mézec of St. Helier South, Minister for Housing
 Deputy L.V. Feltham of St. Helier Central, Minister for Social Security
 Deputy T.J.A. Binet of St. Saviour, Minister for Health and Social Services

In attendance -

Connétable M.K. Jackson of St. Brelade, Representative of the Comité des Connétables
 Deputy C.S. Alves of St. Helier Central, Assistant Chief Minister
 Deputy M.R. Ferey of St. Clement, Assistant Chief Minister
 Deputy M.R. Scott of St. Brelade, Assistant Minister for Sustainable Economic Development
 Deputy R.E. Binet of Grouville and St. Martin, Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services
 Deputy B. Ward of St. Clement, Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services
 M.H. Temple, K.C., H.M. Attorney General
 Dr. A. McLaughlin, Interim Chief Executive and Head of the Public Service, Government of Jersey
 W. Millow, Deputy Greffier of the States
 R. Bell, Treasurer of the States (for item B2 only)
 L. Marsh-Smith, Principal Legislative Drafter, Legislative Drafting Office (for item B4 only)
 S. Roberts, Director of the Civil Division, Law Officers' Department (for item B4 only)

R. Summersgill, Comptroller of Taxes, Treasury and Exchequer (for part of items A3 and B1 only)
T. Holvey, Chief Economic Adviser, Department for the Economy (for item B3 only)
P. Wylie, Group Director of Policy, Cabinet Office (for item B4 only)
A. Hacquoil, Group Director - Strategic Finance, Treasury and Exchequer (for item B2 only)
N. Wallis, Head of Financial Planning, Treasury and Exchequer (for item B2 only)
T. Gladwin, Economic Programmes Manager, Department for the Economy (for item B3 only)
P. Bradbury, Head of Ministerial Office
B. Markwell Sales, Business and Governance Officer to the Council of Ministers
T. Mourant, Private Secretary to the Chief Minister
K.L. Slack, Senior Secretariat Officer, States Greffe
C. Tucker, Assistant Secretariat Officer, States Greffe

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Parts A and B.

Minutes. A1. The Minutes of the meetings of 24th September and 8th and 16th October 2024 (Parts A and B), having previously been circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed, subject to some minor amendments to the Part A Minutes of 24th September 2024.

Declarations of interest. A2. No declarations of interest were received in connexion with any of the items discussed at the current meeting.

Forthcoming business. A3. The Council discussed the following items of public business, which were scheduled to be debated by the States Assembly at the meeting on 12th November -

Make States old age pensions exempt from tax (in-Committee debate)

It was noted that, as this online petition had exceeded 5,000 signatures, it would be the subject of an in-Committee debate, following the agreement of the States Assembly on 11th September 2024.

The Council welcomed Mr. R. Summersgill, Comptroller of Taxes, Treasury and Exchequer, to the meeting and was reminded that the Minister for Treasury and Resources had presented a report on the petition (R.164/2024 referred), which *inter alia* clarified that approximately 50 per cent of all pensioners in Jersey did not currently pay income tax, as their income was below the exemption threshold, which was £20,000 for a single person and £32,050 for married couples or those in a civil partnership (plus the second earner's threshold of £7,950, where applicable).

As the ageing demographic increased, the cost of providing the States old age pension would augment. It was estimated that the amount of income tax paid on the old age pension by those pensioners, whose income exceeded the aforementioned threshold, was currently between £22 and 23 million *per annum*. Any reduction in revenue would require funding through the Social Security Fund, which would, as a consequence, deprive future pensioners; and

Draft Royal Court and Stamp Duties and Fees (Jersey) Amendment Law 202-(P.67/2024)

The Council was informed that one of the provisions of this draft Law, which had been lodged by the Minister for Treasury and Resources, would enable the Minister,

after consultation with the Bailiff, the Viscount and the Judicial Greffier, to amend certain judicial fees by Ministerial Order. It was noted that Deputy Sir P.M. Bailhache of St. Clement had lodged an Amendment to the draft Law to the effect that any such uprate should be made by Regulations, rather than by Order.

The Council was informed that the Minister would aim to lodge her own Amendment to the draft Law to provide that only increases in line with (or below) the Retail Price Index could be made by Order, with greater uplifts requiring approval by the States Assembly by virtue of Regulations.