

MC/MH/059

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(42nd Meeting)

15th January 2020**PART A (Non-Exempt)**

All members were present.

Senator J.A.N Le Fondré, Chief Minister  
 Senator L.J. Farnham, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture  
 Senator S.Y. Mézec, Minister for Children and Housing  
 Senator T.A. Vallois, Minister for Education  
 Senator I.J. Gorst, Minister for External Relations  
 Deputy R.J. Renouf of St. Ouen, Minister for Health and Social Services  
 Connétable L. Norman of St. Clement, Minister for Home Affairs  
 Deputy J.H. Young, Minister for the Environment (not present for items B5, B6 and B8)  
 Deputy K.C. Lewis of St. Saviour, Minister for Infrastructure  
 Deputy C.F. Labey, Minister for International Development  
 Deputy J.A. Martin of St. Helier, Minister for Social Security  
 Deputy S.J. Pinel of St. Clement, Minister for Treasury and Resources  
 Deputy G.C.U. Guida of St. Lawrence, Assistant Minister for the Environment (items B5, B6 and B8 only)

In attendance -

Connétable R. A. Buchanan, Assistant Chief Minister  
 Deputy S. Wickenden, Assistant Chief Minister  
 C. Parker, Chief Executive, States of Jersey  
 Dr. M. Egan, Greffier of the States  
 M.H. Temple, Q.C., H.M. Solicitor General  
 P. Bradbury, Head of Ministerial Support, Office of the Chief Executive  
 S. Duhamel, Policy and Strategy Director, Customer and Local Services (item A2 only)  
 T. Walker, Director General for Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance  
 Dr. A. Muller, Director of Corporate Planning and Performance, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance  
 S. Skelton, Director, Strategy and Innovation, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance (item B2 only)  
 Dr. L. Magris, Director of Environmental Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance (item B2 only)  
 R. Johnson, Director, Social Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance (item B3 only)  
 A. Scate, Group Director, Regulation, Growth Housing and Environment (item B3 only)  
 J. Rogers, Director General for Growth, Housing and Environment (item B4 only)  
 M. Moffat, Policy Principal, Children's Policy, Children, Young People, Education and Skills (item B5 only)

R. Corrigan, Group Director, Financial Services and Digital Economy, Office of the Chief Executive (item B4 only)  
N. Vaughan, Chief Economic Advisor, Office of the Chief Executive (item B6 only)  
D. Scott, Director, Office of the Chief Executive (item B6 only)  
G. Boyd Senior Economist, Office of the Chief Executive (item B6 only)  
J. Quinn, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Operating Office (item B7 only)  
M. Grimley, Group Director, People and Corporate Services, Chief Operating Office (item B7 only)  
S. Hardwick, Director of Communications, Office of the Chief Executive (item B7 only)  
C. May, Head of Communications, Office of the Chief Executive, Communications (item B7 only)  
C. Keir, Head of Media and Stakeholder Relations, Communications (item B7 only)  
L. Perez, Head of Internal and change Communications, Communications (item B7 only)  
V. Barclay, Head of Marketing, Communications (item B7 only)  
M. Clark, Clerk to the Council of Ministers

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

Minutes. A1. The Minutes of the meetings of 13th, 15th, 18th and 20th November 2019 (Part A and B) having previously been circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

States Business, 21st January 2020. A2. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. B1 of 4th December 2019, discussed with the Head of Ministerial Support, Office of the Chief Executive, the list of public business scheduled for consideration by the States Assembly on 21st January 2020 and commented specifically on the following:

**Draft Banking Business (Depositors Compensation) (Amendment No.2) (Jersey) Regulations 201-** (P.81/2019)

The Council noted that, if adopted, the draft Regulations would update the Banking Business (Depositors Compensation) (Jersey) Regulations 2009, allowing the Board operating the Jersey Bank Depositor Compensation Scheme to collect information regarding the deposits held by financial institutions. The Minister for External Relations, Senator I.J. Gorst, advised that the Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel had lodged an amendment to the proposition, which sought to provide additional safeguards in relation to the storing and sharing of potentially sensitive data. The Council agreed that the amendment was uncontentious and maintained its existing position that the proposition should be supported;

**Public Elections: declaration of donations exceeding the current threshold for declaration in law** (P.120/2019)

The Council noted that Connétable K. Shenton-Stone of St. Martin sought the Assembly's approval to require election candidates to publish details of donations received which exceeded the current threshold for declaration in Law (£120) and for the Judicial Greffier to maintain a public register of donations made to political parties.

The Greffier of the States advised that the Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC) had lodged an amendment to the proposition which would require it to be

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considered alongside other, connected issues (relating to election expenses) which would form the basis of a public consultation undertaken by the PPC during the first quarter of 2020. The Council noted the position accordingly; and

**Draft Employment (Minimum Wage)(Amendment No. 16)(Jersey) Regulations 201-** (P.120/2019) and **Employment (Minimum Wage)(Jersey) Order 2019: rescindment** (P.124/2019)

The Council noted that the draft Regulations, if adopted, would increase by 3.81 per cent the limits on the amounts that could be taken into account where an employer provided accommodation, or accommodation and food, to an employee as part of their employment package, from 1st April 2020. The limits were last increased on 1st October 2019. It was further noted that the Minister for Social Security, Deputy J.A. Martin of St. Helier had made the Employment (Minimum Wage)(Jersey) Order 2019, which increased the minimum wage in Jersey from £8.02 per hour to £8.32 per hour, effective 1st April 2020, in accordance with the recommendation of the Employment Forum. This Order was the subject of the rescindment proposition (P.124/2019) lodged by Deputy R.J. Ward of St. Helier, which sought to set the minimum wage at £8.32 per hour from 1st April 2020, with a further increase to £8.66 per hour from 1st October 2020. P.124/2019 also proposed increasing the budget for Economic Framework and Productivity Support by £300,000 in 2020, in order to deliver a productivity plan for low-pay sectors before the end of 2020.

The Council supported the objective of increasing the minimum wage towards the level of the living wage, but felt that the timescale envisaged in Deputy Ward's rescindment proposition would prove damaging to certain industry sectors, most notably tourism and agriculture. Ministers also recognised that the Employment Forum provided expert, impartial advice and considered that its independence would be undermined by making arbitrary changes to the minimum wage, albeit that the Forum had been requested by the Minister for Social Security to consider the aspiration of the Assembly to set the minimum wage at 45 per cent of mean weekly earnings by 2020, which would have required an 8 per cent wage increase in 2020.

It was acknowledged that the Employment Forum had considered economic advice, forecasting and industry feedback before arriving at its conclusions. Other than Senator S.Y. Mézec, who confirmed that he would be supporting Deputy Ward's rescindment proposition, the Council agreed to support P.120/2019 and oppose P.124/2020.