

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(1st Meeting)

15th December 2008**PART A**

All members were present, with the exception of Senator F.E. Cohen, Minister for Planning and Environment, from whom apologies had been received.

Senator T.A. Le Sueur, Chief Minister
 Senator P.F.C. Ozouf, Minister for Treasury and Resources
 Senator T.J. Le Main, Minister for Housing
 Senator J.L. Perchard, Minister for Health and Social Services
 Senator A.J.H. Maclean, Minister for Economic Development
 Senator B.I. Le Marquand, Minister for Home Affairs
 Connétable M.K. Jackson, Minister for Transport and Technical Services
 Deputy J.G. Reed, Minister for Education, Sport and Culture
 Deputy I.J. Gorst, Minister for Social Security

In attendance -

W.D. Ogley, Chief Executive, States of Jersey
 J. Morris, Policy and Research Manager
 M.N. de la Haye, Greffier of the States
 I. Clarkson, Clerk to the Council of Ministers

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A only.

Chief
 Minister's
 welcome.

A1. The Chief Minister welcomed Ministers to the first meeting of the Council and congratulated them on their successful appointments.

Deputy Chief
 Minister.

A2. The Council noted that the Chief Minister had appointed Senator P.F.C. Ozouf as Deputy Chief Minister.

Appointment
 of Assistant
 Ministers.
 1444/1(39)
 1444/1(4)

A3. The Council considered the appointment of Assistant Ministers to the ten Departments of the Executive. The Council was mindful that the States would be meeting on 16th December 2008, in order to appoint Members of the Privileges and Procedures Committee, the Public Accounts Committee and the four Scrutiny panels, and it would therefore assist this process if the Council had already determined who would be Assistant Ministers.

The Council, following some deliberation, agreed the following -

Chief Minister - (Senator T.A. Le Sueur)
 Assistant Minister – Senator P.F. Routier
 Assistant Minister – Deputy J.A.N. Le Fondré

Treasury and Resources - (Senator P.F.C. Ozouf)
 Assistant Minister – Deputy J.A.N. Le Fondré
 Assistant Minister – Deputy E.J. Noel

Economic Development - (Senator A.J.H. Maclean)
Assistant Minister – Senator P.F. Routier
Assistant Minister – Connétable L. Norman

Education, Sport and Culture - (Deputy J.G. Reed)
Assistant Minister – Deputy A.T. Dupre
Assistant Minister - Deputy A.K.F. Green

Social Security - (Deputy I.J. Gorst)
Assistant Minister – Deputy A.E. Jeune

Health and Social Services - (Senator J.L. Perchard)
Assistant Minister – Connétable D.W. Mezbourian
Assistant Minister – Deputy J.A. Martin

Home Affairs - (Senator B.I. Le Marquand)
Assistant Minister - Deputy J.A. Hilton

Planning and Environment - (Senator F.E. Cohen)
Assistant Minister – Deputy A.E. Pryke

Transport and Technical Services - (Connétable M.K. Jackson)
Assistant Minister – Deputy K.C. Lewis

Housing - (Senator T.A. Le Main)
Assistant Minister – Deputy S. Power

The Council, with reference to Minute No. A5, dated 16th December 2005, of the Council as previously constituted, determined that, subject to full consideration of a report on the matter at its next scheduled meeting, it was minded to reconstitute the Migration Advisory Group under the chairmanship of Senator P.F. Routier, Assistant Minister, Chief Minister's Department.

Finally, and at the invitation of the Chief Minister, the Council agreed that it should recommend to the Connétable J. Gallichan, Chairman of the Privileges and Procedures Committee that the following be nominated for membership of the Privileges and Procedures Committee –

Senator B.I. Le Marquand
Deputy S. Power or, alternatively, Deputy J.A. Martin.

States
Employment
Board:
appointment of
Members.
688/2(1)

A4. The Council considered the constitution of the States Employment Board.

The Council recalled that under the provisions of Article 5 of the Employment of States of Jersey Employees (Jersey) Law 2005, the Board should consist of at least three Members of the Council, including the Chief Minister or his delegate.

The Council appointed the following as the Chairman and Members of the States Employment Board –

Senator T.A. Le Sueur (Chairman)
Senator P.F.C. Ozouf
Senator J.L. Perchard
Connétable M.K. Jackson

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15.12.08

Council of
Ministers
quorum.
1444/3(18)

A5. The Council, with reference to Minute No. A1 of 16th December 2005 of the Council as previously constituted, considered the matter of a quorum for its Meetings.

The Council agreed that its quorum should be six. It further agreed that in the event a particular Minister was not able to attend all or part of a Meeting, a relevant Assistant Minister representing the same department could attend in the place of the Minister and that the relevant Assistant Minister would be classified as a full member of the Council for the purposes of determining a quorum.

Council of
Ministers;
dates of
Meetings for
2009.
1444/1(40)

A6. The Council considered dates for its forthcoming Meetings.

It was agreed that the Council should generally continue to meet fortnightly at 9.30 a.m. on a Thursday, during the week that the States was not sitting. Meetings would usually be held on the 9th Floor, Cyril Le Marquand House. The Council confirmed that Assistant Ministers would only attend Council meetings by invitation as deemed necessary.

Ministers agreed to meet again on 18th December 2008 to consider a series of routine induction items.

The following meeting dates were agreed for 2009 –

15th January
29th January
12th February
5th March
19th March
23rd April
7th May
11th June
25th June
9th July
23rd July
3rd September
17th September
1st October
15th October
12th November
26th November
17th December.

Ministers noted that further informal meetings would be held in due course to consider the draft Strategic Plan 2009 – 2013, with the first such meeting scheduled for 22nd December 2008.

Code of
Conduct for
Ministers.
1444/3(17)

A7. The Council, with reference to Minute No. A8, dated 26th January 2006, of the Council as previously constituted, considered a report concerning the Ministerial Code of Conduct (R.14/2006 refers).

The Chief Minister informed the Council of his intention to discuss with the Chief Executive certain aspects of the Ministerial Code adopted by the Council as previously constituted, following which a revised report would be tabled for consideration by the Council. This would include consideration of a possible appeals procedure. In the intervening period, the Chief Minister informed

Ministers of his expectation –

- (a) that all Ministers would strive to demonstrate high standards of conduct and behaviour, with particular emphasis on full compliance with the Standing Orders of the States of Jersey at all times, and
- (b) that the Council would adopt a corporate and thoroughly professional approach to its duties.

With reference to the above, the Chief Minister clarified that he was not minded to tolerate unparliamentary language, whether spoken or in correspondence, irrespective of any element of provocation. Moreover, and with a view to ensuring high standards of order and decorum at meetings, the Chief Minister expressed the firm view that Ministers should refrain from using mobile telephones and other portable communication devices within the meeting room other than in exceptional circumstances and, further, that they should endeavour to refrain from excusing themselves from the meeting for short periods in order to make or to receive calls or messages. On the general matter of attendance, it was expected that Ministers would make every effort to be present for the full duration of every meeting of the Council and of the States Assembly. Turning to the matter of potential policy disagreements, it was readily anticipated that individual Ministers would harbour differing views on policy matters from time to time. In this connexion, the Chief Minister submitted that it was incumbent upon every Minister to pursue constructive resolution of such disagreements through meticulous and constructive consideration of policy options at Council meetings.

The Council noted and endorsed the views expressed by the Chief Minister. It also resolved to give further consideration to the Ministerial Code of Conduct in due course.