

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(67th Meeting)

11th January 2011PART A

All members were present, with the exception of Deputy J.G. Reed, Minister for Education, Sport and Culture, from whom apologies had been received.

Senator T.A. Le Sueur, Chief Minister
 Senator P.F.C. Ozouf, Minister for Treasury and Resources
 Senator F.E. Cohen, Minister for Planning and Environment
 Senator A.J.H. Maclean, Minister for Economic Development
 Senator B.I. Le Marquand, Minister for Home Affairs
 Connétable M.K. Jackson of St. Brelade, Minister for Transport and Technical Services
 Deputy A.E. Pryke, Minister for Health and Social Services
 Deputy S.S.P.A. Power, Minister for Housing
 Deputy I.J. Gorst, Minister for Social Security
 Deputy A.K.F. Green, Assistant Minister for Education, Sport and Culture

In attendance -

Deputy E.J. Noel, Assistant Minister for Treasury and Resources
 W.D. Ogley, Chief Executive, States of Jersey
 T.J. Le Cocq, Q.C, H.M. Attorney General
 L. Rowley, Treasurer of the States (for item B1)
 Dr. S. Turnbull, Acting Medical Officer of Health (for items A3 and B2)
 A. McLaughlin, Hospital Director, Health and Social Services Department (for items A3 and B2)
 C. Anderson, Team Leader – Comprehensive Spending Review (for item B1)
 C. Haws, Head of Financial Planning, Treasury and Resources Department (for item B1)
 P. Jones, Interim Director of Human Resources, Health and Social Services Department (for item B3)
 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 and Part B.

Minutes.

A1. The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 2010 (Parts A and B), having been circulated previously, were taken as read and were confirmed.

States
 business.
 1240/7/1(1)

A2. The Council reviewed the list of public business scheduled for consideration by the States Assembly during the remainder of the First Session of 2011. Particular consideration was given to the following propositions -

- (a) **Canons of the Church of England in Jersey (P.179/2010)** – the Council endorsed the proposition;
- (b) **Draft Employment (Amendment No. 6) (Jersey) Law 201-(P.143/2010)** – the Council endorsed the proposition;

- (c) **Draft Restriction on Smoking (Warning Notices) (Jersey) Regulations 201- (P.156/2010)** – the Council endorsed the proposition;
- (d) **Speed Limits: revised policy (P.167/2010)** – the Council noted the proposition and the corresponding amendments, including that which had been lodged by the Minister for Economic Development with a view to maintaining the existing ‘Green Lane’ network;
- (e) **Official Report (‘Hansard’): retrospective removal of names (P.168/2010)** – the Council endorsed the proposition;
- (f) **Draft Amendment (No. 14) of the Standing Orders of the States of Jersey and amendments (P.169/2010)** – the Council endorsed the proposition. In respect of the amendment lodged by Deputy P.J. Rondel of St. John, the Council agreed that it should present a brief comment confirming its view that, for reasons of efficiency, Assistant Ministers should continue to be able to as rapporteur for propositions lodged by their respective Ministers;
- (g) **Draft States of Jersey (Miscellaneous Provisions) Law 201- (P.176/2010)** – the Council, with reference to its Minute No. B1 of this meeting and having noted the proposition and the various amendments to the same, and having also agreed that the subject was not one on which the Council was inclined to pursue a collective view, agreed that it should present to the States a brief comment summarising the detailed implications for the States financial year of a decision to move to a single election day in the spring;
- (h) **Ratification of the Agreement for the exchange of information relating to taxes between the Government of Jersey and the Government of the People’s Republic of China (P.178/2010)** – the Council affirmed its endorsement of the proposition;
- (i) **Jersey Bank Depositors Compensation Board: appointment of members (P.180/2010)** – the Council endorsed the proposition;
- (j) **Jersey Overseas Aid Commission: appointment of non-States Commissioner (P.183/2010)** – the Council endorsed the proposition;
- (k) **Draft Public Holidays and Bank Holidays (Amendment) (Jersey) Act 201- (P.184/2010)** – the Council affirmed its endorsement of the proposition and noted that while the notional cost of one day’s leave for all public employees had been estimated at approximately £1.5 million, the cost to the States in actual cash terms would be substantially lower;
- (l) **Composition of the States: reduction in number of Senators – referendum (P.198/2010)** – the Council agreed that the subject of a referendum on a reduction in the number of Senators was not one on which it would seek to establish a collective view;
- (m) **Composition of the States: reduction in number of Deputies (P.2/2011)** – the Council agreed that the subject of a reduction in the number of Deputies was not one on which it would seek to establish a collective view.

The Council delegated to the Chief Minister the necessary authority to approve and present to the States various comments to the foregoing propositions.

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11.01.11

Influenza
outbreak:
briefing.
1064(15)

A3. The Council, with the Acting Medical Officer of Health and the Hospital Director, Health and Social Services Department in attendance, received a comprehensive briefing on management of the emerging H1N1 influenza outbreak in the Island.

Consideration of this item continued under the Council's Part B (Confidential) agenda.

Assistant Chief
Minister with
responsibility
for external
relations:
appointment.
1444/3(21)

A4. The Council received an oral briefing from the Chief Minister concerning the appointment of an Assistant Chief Minister with specific responsibility for external relations.

The Chief Minister recalled that in recent years deliberate and concerted efforts had been made to develop the Island's international identity and to forge direct and constructive relations with other jurisdictions. Maintaining and enhancing this policy was a firm priority for the Chief Minister. Therefore, and reflecting the recent decision of the United Kingdom Ministry of Justice that it would no longer act as an intermediary between the Island and other UK government departments, the Chief Minister intended to appoint Senator F.E. Cohen as Assistant Minister with specific responsibility for external relations.

The Council noted and wholeheartedly endorsed the appointment of Senator Cohen, who was considered eminently well suited to the new role; however, and in recognition of the importance and stature of the new role, the Council recommended that the Chief Minister pursue the necessary changes to the States of Jersey Law 2005, as amended, to enable the appointment of a Minister for External Relations in due course.

Having noted the restriction on the total number of Assistant Ministers, as imposed by Article 25(3) of the States of Jersey Law 2005 as amended, the Council noted that Deputy J.A.N. Le Fondré of St. Lawrence would vacate the post of Assistant Minister, Chief Minister's Department.