

PM/SC/035

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(43rd Meeting)

4th February 2013

(Meeting conducted by electronic mail)

PART A

All members were present, with the exception of Senator A.J.H. Maclean, Minister for Economic Development, Senator B.I. Le Marquand, Minister for Home Affairs, Deputy R.C. Duhamel, Minister for Planning and Environment and Deputy K.C. Lewis, Minister for Transport and Technical Services.

Senator I.J. Gorst, Chief Minister
 Senator P.F.C. Ozouf, Minister for Treasury and Resources
 Senator F. du H. Le Gresley, M.B.E., Minister for Social Security
 Deputy A.E. Pryke, Minister for Health and Social Services
 Deputy A.K.F. Green, M.B.E, Minister for Housing
 Deputy P.J.D. Ryan, Minister for Education, Sport and Culture

In attendance -

T. Walker, Director – International Affairs, Chief Minister’s Department
 J. Morris, Policy and Research Manager, Chief Minister’s Department
 P. Monamy, Clerk to the Council of Ministers

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

Minister for
 Justice and
 Department of
 Justice:
 possible
 establishment
 (P.120/2012) –
 comment.
 1240/26(61)

A1. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. B2 of 9th January 2013, recalled that it had previously considered the draft text of a comment to be presented by the Council on P.120/2012 – “Minister for Justice and Department of Justice: report” (lodged ‘au Greffe by Senator L.J. Farnham on 13th November 2012).

Having considered revisions which had been made to the proposed comment, the Council agreed revised text as follows –

“The Council of Ministers notes the perceived gap in the responsibilities of Ministers and Departments highlighted by this report and therefore supports the suggestion that the Chief Minister should investigate how best to address the Proposition as lodged and amended by Senator L.J. Farnham. The Chief Minister would wish to consider a number of means by which ministerial oversight of the justice system might be addressed. The Council are not at this stage supporting the establishment of a new office of Minister for Justice and associated Department. The Council also supports the need to continue to uphold the necessary impartiality and independence of the judiciary and prosecuting authorities. The Chief Minister, in consultation with the Council of Ministers, is content to report to the States Assembly with recommendations or proposals no later than 31st July 2013.”

The Greffier of the States was requested to arrange for the comment to be presented to the States on 5th February 2013.