

PM/SC/045

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(44th Meeting)

6th February 2013**PART A**

All members were present, with the exception of Senator I.J. Gorst, Chief Minister, Senator P.F.C. Ozouf, Minister for Treasury and Resources and Deputy P.J.D. Ryan, Minister for Education, Sport and Culture, from whom apologies for absence were received.

Senator B.I. Le Marquand, Minister for Home Affairs - Chairman
 Senator A.J.H. Maclean, Minister for Economic Development
 Senator F. du H. Le Gresley, M.B.E., Minister for Social Security
 Deputy R.C. Duhamel, Minister for Planning and Environment
 Deputy A.E. Pryke, Minister for Health and Social Services
 Deputy K.C. Lewis, Minister for Transport and Technical Services
 Deputy A.K.F. Green, M.B.E, Minister for Housing
 Deputy R.G. Bryans, Assistant Minister for Education, Sport and Culture

In attendance -

Senator P.F. Routier, M.B.E., Assistant to the Chief Minister
 Senator Sir P.M. Bailhache, Assistant to the Chief Minister (not present for items A1 and A3)
 J.D. Richardson, Chief Executive, States of Jersey
 Dr. S. Turnbull, Medical Officer of Health (for item B1)
 Mrs. C. Blackwood, Registration and Inspection Manager, Health and Social Services (for item B1)
 P. Bradbury, Director – Population Office (for item B3)
 S. Pritchard, Director of Business Creation and Growth, Economic Development Department (for item B3)
 T.J. Le Cocq, Q.C., H.M. Attorney General
 M.N. de la Haye, Greffier of the States
 Ms. C. Keir, Communications Manager
 L. De Oliviera, Policy and Research Officer
 P. Monamy, 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 held on 23rd January (Part B only) and 4th February 2013 (Part A only), having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

States
 business.
 1240/7/1(1)

A2. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. A1 of 9th January 2013, noted the list of public business scheduled for consideration by the States Assembly during the First Session 2013. Particular consideration was given to the propositions listed below where indicated.

19th February 2013

Committee of Inquiry: historical child abuse (P.118/2012)

The Council recalled that it was scheduled to meet on Friday, 15th February 2013 in order to further discuss this matter.

Minister for Justice and Department of Justice (P.120/2012) and amendment
The Council recalled that its comment on the projet had been presented to the States on 5th February 2013.

Draft Motor Traffic (Third Party Insurance) (Cost Recovery) (Jersey) Regulations 201- (P.135/2012)
The Council recalled that it had previously indicated its support to the projet of the Minister for Health and Social Services.

Draft Referendum (Reform of States Assembly) (Jersey) Act 201- (P.5/2013)
The Council noted that, in line with ‘constitutional’ matters generally, it would be left to each member of the Council to form their own view on the matter.

Jersey Financial Services Commission: appointment of Commissioner (P.8/2013)
The Council endorsed the proposition.

5th March 2013

Police Station Relocation: review of decision (as amended) (P.92/2012) and amendment

Starter Home Deposit Loan Scheme (P.131/2012)
The Council noted that the Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel was currently undertaking a review of the proposition.

Draft Control of Housing and Work (Residential and Employment Status) (Jersey) Regulations 201- (P.2/2013)

Draft Control of Housing and Work (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) (Jersey) Regulations 201- (P.3/2102)
The Council noted that it was understood that a report from the relevant Scrutiny Panel would be presented to the States shortly.

Code of Conduct for Elected members: Commissioner for Standards (P.4/2013)
The Council noted that it would be left to each member of the Council to form their own view on the matter.

Draft Financial Regulation (Disclosure of Information) (Amendments) (Jersey) Regulations 201- (P.7/2013)

Rate Appeal Board: appointment of members (P.9/2013)
The Council endorsed the proposition, which it noted had the full support of the Jersey Appointments Commission.

HSBC Middle East (HBME): investigation (P.10/2013)
The Council agreed that, whilst it appeared that it would be for the Jersey Financial Services Commission to undertake an independent enquiry into the matter if it considered it appropriate to do so, the Council would wish to give consideration to a comment to be presented to the States in due course.

Jersey Police Complaints Authority: appointment of members (P.11/2013)

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Jersey Overseas Aid Commission: appointment of non-States Commissioner (P.14/2013).

Level of unemployment in Jersey: further loss of trading businesses.
1058/12(551)

A3. The Council received an oral report from the Minister for Social Security regarding the demise of the Connections Group retail outlets, which had entered into administration. The possibility was noted that as many as 47 jobs could be lost from the Group, which included Axle Clothing, Dive and Ski Sports, Quicksilver, Freedom Surf Shop, Jersey Surf School and the menswear department at De Gruchy's, as well as the women's clothing department at Voisin's.

It was recognised that there remained the possibility of a management buy-out of the firm's assets, with the intention being to re-open some of the shops. However, it was noted that the Social Security Department stood ready to assist through the use of Insolvency Benefit and the Job Centre, any of the Connections Group employees who lost their jobs.

Council of Ministers meetings: use of e-papers and agenda documentation.
1444/1(65)

A4. The Council reviewed the proposal to achieve 'paperless' meetings through the distribution of agendas and other meeting papers electronically, which had been trialled for the present meeting.

The Chief Executive outlined the future intention of utilising "Board Pad" software, subject to an assessment of this tool by the Information Services Department.

It was noted that a majority of attendees at the present meeting had also, in addition to any electronic device, brought a print-out of the agenda and other documentation, and the Greffier of the States raised the issue of such papers having been produced by Ministers' Personal Assistants or other officers individually, rather than by the printing unit within the States Greffe which had hitherto reproduced copies of the Council's agenda for all Ministers and their relevant officers in a standardised format.

The Council agreed that the trial use of electronic agendas and background papers should continue, although the request from 3 Ministers for a hard-copy of the agenda for each meeting in future was noted.

Miscellaneous matters.

A5. The Council noted the following miscellaneous matters raised at this meeting –

- (a) the Minister for Transport and Technical Services expressed concern at the nature of an e-mail which had been addressed to him, and copied to all Members of the States and the media, by the Connétable of St. John regarding the priorities associated with the resurfacing of main roads throughout the Island. The Council recognised that the Minister had no direct involvement in operational matters such as main road resurfacing and that, in any event, there were good reasons for the present schedule of works which took into account schemes pending by the various Utilities;
- (b) Deputy Green, in a personal capacity, urged that consideration be given during the planning of any scheme to provide a second tier of parking at Snow Hill, to the provision of a lift up to the adjacent Fort Regent complex.