

PM/MH/355

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(33rd Meeting)

9th December 2015**PART A (Non-exempt)**

All members were present, with the exception of Senator Sir P.M. Bailhache, Minister for External Relations; Senator A.K.F. Green, M.B.E, Minister for Health and Social Services; and Deputy S.J. Pinel of St. Clement, Minister for Social Security, from whom apologies for absence had been received.

Senator I.J. Gorst, Chief Minister
 Senator A.J.H. Maclean, Minister for Treasury and Resources
 Senator L.J. Farnham, Minister for Economic Development (not present for item B1)
 Deputy A.E. Pryke of Trinity, Minister for Housing
 Deputy E.J. Noel of St. Lawrence, Minister for Transport and Technical Services
 Deputy S.G. Luce of St. Martin, Minister for Planning and Environment
 Deputy R.G. Bryans of St. Helier, Minister for Education, Sport and Culture
 Deputy K.L. Moore of St. Peter, Minister for Home Affairs
 Connétable J.M. Refault of St. Peter, Assistant Minister for Treasury and Resources and Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services

In attendance -

Senator P.F. Routier, M.B.E., Assistant Chief Minister
 Senator P.F.C. Ozouf, Assistant Chief Minister
 J.D. Richardson, Chief Executive, States of Jersey
 M.N. de la Haye, O.B.E., Greffier of the States
 M. Egan, Greffier of the States Designate (items A2, B1-B3)
 R. Bell, Treasurer of the States (for items B1 and B2)
 P. Eastwood, Deputy Director of Tax Policy, Treasury and Resources Department (for item B1)
 R. Summersgill, Comptroller of Taxes (for item B1)
 R. Jouault, Programme Director, Chief Minister's Department (for item B3)
 Advocate B. Lacy, Historic Abuse Redress Scheme Lawyer, of Lacy Advocates (for item B3)
 S. Petrie, Interim Head – Environmental Health, Health and Social Services Department (for item B4)
 J.M.E. Harris, Assistant Director – Policy and Strategy, Education, Sport and Culture (for item B5)
 J. Donovan, Director of Education (for item B5)
 R. Foster, Director of Estates, Jersey Property Holdings (for item B5)
 A. Scate, Chief Officer, Department of the Environment and Lead for Public Sector Reform (for items B6 and B7)
 D. Drieu, Senior Manager – Organisational Development, Human Resources Department (for items B6 and B7)
 R. Stevens, Chief Officer, Human Resources Department (for items B6 and B7)
 P. Bradbury, Director – Corporate Policy, Chief Minister's Department (for item A3)
 C. Keir, Assistant Director - Ministerial Support and Communications
 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 30th October (Part B only), 11th November (Part A and Part B) and 25th November 2015 (Part A and Part B), having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Greffier of the States Designate, Dr. M. Egan: welcome. A2. The Chief Minister, on behalf of the Council, welcomed Dr. Mark Egan, Greffier of the States Designate, to his first meeting of the Council.

States Business 14.12.2015 and 15.12.2015. 1240/7/1(1) A3. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. A1 of 25th November 2015, noted the list of public business scheduled for consideration by the States Assembly on 14th and 15th December 2015, and commented specifically on the following –

14th December 2015

Draft Currency Notes (Variation of Maximum Amount of Issue) (Jersey) Regulations 201- (P.146/2015)

The Council, having noted that the States Assembly had, in accordance with Standing Order 26(7), agreed to reduce the minimum lodging period for this item, supported the draft Regulations.

Data Protection Commissioner and vice-Data Protection Commissioner: renewal of appointments (P.151/2015)

The Council, having noted that the Chief Minister intended to ask the States Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order 26(7), to reduce the minimum lodging period, supported the proposition.

15th December 2015

Draft Budget Statement 2016 (P.127/2015)

The Council confirmed that it supported the Draft Budget.

Draft Finance (2016 Budget) (Jersey) Law 201- (P.129/2015)

The Council supported the draft Law.

Draft Income Tax (Amendment No. 45) (Jersey) Law 201- (P.128/2015)

The Council supported the draft Law

Draft States of Jersey (Transfer of Functions No. 8) (Miscellaneous Transfers) (Jersey) Regulations 201- (P.46/2015) and Amendments

The Council, having recalled that the States Assembly had, on 20th October 2015, adopted the principles, reiterated its support for the Draft Regulations. It was considered that the intention to align Ministerial portfolios with strategic objectives had been clearly outlined, and the Council agreed to ask the States Assembly to reject the Amendment of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel (which sought to prevent the transfer of the functions of the Minister for Treasury and Resources in standing order 168 of the Standing Orders of the States of Jersey) which the Council considered would stand in the way of delivering operational improvements and the investment in the new Minister for Infrastructure of the necessary powers to achieve the strategic objectives outlined.

Draft Social Security (Amendment of Law No. 10) (Jersey) Regulations 201- (P.136/2015)

The Council supported the Draft Regulations.

Christmas bonus: introduction of means-tested bonus (P.141/2015)

The Council noted that a major review of the Social Security Fund was to commence in 2016, which would include a review of contribution rates and how pensions were supported, which would assist in preparing for the ageing society. Alongside this work, how bonuses supported vulnerable pensioners would be reviewed in the wider context. The outcome of the review would report in 2016 as part of the addition to the Medium Term Financial Plan 2016-2019 and the Council decided to urge the States Assembly to reject the Deputy's proposition on the basis of its commitment to bring forward fully considered proposals for a new and targeted Christmas bonus in 2016, in respect of which it was recognised that new legislation would be required.

Concessionary bus fares for the disabled: discussions with LibertyBus (P.140/2015)

The Council noted that the discussions sought by Deputy M. Tadier of St. Brelade were already in train and formed part of the work being undertaken to develop an Island-wide disability strategy. Consequently, the Council agreed to accept the proposition on the basis that the work envisaged had already been commissioned and that the initial high-level findings would be reported to the Council in March 2016.

Social Security Tribunal: appointment of Chairman (P.143/2015)

The Council, noting that the Minister for Social Security proposed to appoint the same person as Chairman across all 3 Tribunals that might be convened to hear matters regarding decisions made by the Social Security Department, supported the proposition.

Social Security Medical Tribunal: appointment of Chairman (P.144/2015)

The Council supported the proposition.

Income Support Medical Tribunal: appointment of Chairman (P.145/2015)

The Council supported the proposition.

Draft Double Taxation Relief (Arrangement with the United Kingdom) (Jersey) Act 201- (P.147/2015)

The Council, having noted the need for amendment to the 1952 Arrangement, supported the Draft Act.

Public Employees Contributory Retirement Scheme Committee of Management: membership (P.148/2015)

The Council, noting that the proposed appointments would be for a period of 3 years commencing 1st January 2016, supported the proposition.

Greffier of the States, Mr. M.N. de la Haye, O.B.E.: appreciation.

A4. The Chief Minister, on behalf of the Council, on the occasion of the attendance of the Greffier of the States, Mr. M.N. de la Haye, O.B.E. at his last meeting of the Council, expressed his appreciation for the advice and guidance provided to the Council and to individual Ministers by the Greffier over the years.

Ministers endorsed the sentiments expressed by the Chief Minister and offered their best wishes to Mr. de la Haye for the future, noting that he had been appointed by the States Assembly as a Commissioner of the Jersey Financial Services Commission with effect from 1st January 2016.