

PM/MH/032

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(66th Meeting)

25th January 2017**PART A (Non-exempt)**

All members were present, with the exception of Deputy E.J. Noel of St. Lawrence, Minister for Infrastructure; 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 A.E. Pryke of Trinity, Minister for Housing, from whom apologies for absence had been received.

Senator A.J.H. Maclean, Minister for Treasury and Resources - Chairman
 Senator I.J. Gorst, Chief Minister (present for item B2) (via video conference link)
 Senator L.J. Farnham, Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture (present for items A1, A2, B1 and B3)
 Deputy R.G. Bryans of St. Helier, Minister for Education
 Deputy S.G. Luce of St. Martin, Minister for the Environment
 Deputy K.L. Moore of St. Peter, Minister for Home Affairs
 Deputy S.J. Pinel of St. Clement, Minister for Social Security
 Senator P.F. Routier, M.B.E., Assistant to the Chief Minister
 Conntéable J.M. Refault of St. Peter, Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services

In attendance -

Deputy S.M. Wickenden, Assistant to the Chief Minister
 J.D. Richardson, Chief Executive, States of Jersey
 R.J. MacRae, Q.C., H.M. Attorney General
 P. Bradbury, Director Corporate Policy, Chief Minister's Department
 D. Houseago, Director, Environmental Management and Rural Economy, Department of Economic Development, Tourism Sport and Culture (for item B1)
 S. Meadows, Assistant Director, Rural Economy and Head of Plant Health, Department of the Environment (for item B1)
 D. Walwyn, Director, External Relations, Chief Minister's Department (for item B2)
 K. Nutt, Head of Service – External Relations, Chief Minister's Department (for item B2) (via video conference link)
 S. Hayward, Director of Treasury Operations and Investments, Treasury and Resources Department (for item B3)
 T. McMinigal, Policy Officer, Chief Minister's Department (for item B3)
 P. Monamy, Clerk to the Council of Ministers

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A and Part B.

States business
 31.01.2017.
 1240/7/1(1)

A1. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. A2 of 11th January 2017, and with the Director – Corporate Policy, Chief Minister's Department in attendance, noted the list of public business scheduled for consideration by the States Assembly on 31st January and commented specifically on the undermentioned items:

Vote of No Confidence: States Employment Board (P.137/2016)

The Council, with reference to its Minute No. B3 of 11th January 2017, and having noted that a package of comments was being assembled for Ministers' information prior to the debate and that a briefing for all Members of the States was to be held on Monday, 30th January 2017, endorsed the position adopted by the States Employment Board.

Draft Commissioner for Standards (Jersey) Law 201- (P.87/2016) and Amendments

The Council noted that an amendment by the Chief Minister to the proposals of the Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC) sought to focus the arm's-length, independent investigation process on the conduct of all elected Members of the States, with matters of procedure and practice not to be included within the remit of the Commissioner for Standards – in particular, with the Commissioner and PPC not to be responsible for investigating and enforcing adherence with collective responsibility on behalf of the Chief Minister.

Composition and election of the States Assembly (P.133/2016) and Amendment

The Council noted that the proposition was subject to a free vote by Ministers.

Draft Bank Depositors Compensation (Jersey) Law 201- (P.135/2016)

The Council supported the draft Law.

Draft The Law Society of Jersey (Amendment No. 4) (Jersey) Law 201- (P.136/2016)

The Council supported the draft Law.

Draft Bank (recovery and Resolution) (Jersey) Law 201- (P.134/2016)

The Council supported the draft Law.

Forthcoming
announcements.

A2. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. A3 of 11th January 2017, discussed with the Director – Corporate Policy, Chief Minister's Department a schedule of forthcoming announcements and communications.

The Council noted the following –

- (a) The Minister for the Environment had, on 24th January 2017, lodged 'au Greffe' the Draft Water Pollution (Amendment No. 3) (Jersey) Law 201- which would facilitate controls necessary under the (draft) Water Management Plan for 2017-2021 on certain activities associated with inputs of diffuse pollutants which had a detrimental impact on the quality of controlled waters;
- (b) The Minister for the Environment outlined a joint response, in conjunction with the Minister for Infrastructure, which responded to comments raised by the Save Our Shoreline (SOS) group in its submission to the Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel as part of its review of 'Nitrate Levels in Jersey's Water.' It had been confirmed that nothing new had been highlighted by SOS and that genuine evidence of breaches of legislation led to the Departments investigating appropriately, with joint effort underway working closely with Jersey Water on water quality issues;

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- (c) The Chief Minister would shortly publish a letter of resignation as Assistant to the Chief Minister received from Senator P.F.C. Ozouf, together with the Chief Minister's response thereto;
- (d) The Chief Minister would shortly announce that responsibility for the under-mentioned areas would be assigned to the following Assistants to the Chief Minister –
 - Senator P.F. Routier, M.B.E. – Innovation, Competition and Telecommunications and Broadcasting; as well as existing responsibilities;
 - Deputy S.M. Wickenden – Digital Jersey; as well as existing responsibilities around reform and e-government programmes;and that the Chief Minister would retain responsibility for Financial Services and not delegate the responsibilities;
- (e) H.M. Attorney General indicated that a press release would be issued shortly regarding a new Asset Sharing Agreement entered into with the United States of America.