

PM/MH/100

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(69th Meeting)

8th March 2017

PART A (Non-exempt)

All members were present, with the exception of Senator Sir P.M. Bailhache, Minister for External Relations and Senator A.J.H. Maclean, Minister for Treasury and Resources, from whom apologies for absence had been received.

Senator I.J. Gorst, Chief Minister
Senator L.J. Farnham, Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture
Deputy R.G. Bryans of St. Helier, Minister for Education
Deputy S.G. Luce of St. Martin, Minister for the Environment
Senator A.K.F. Green, M.B.E, Minister for Health and Social Services
Deputy K.L. Moore of St. Peter, Minister for Home Affairs
Deputy A.E. Pryke of Trinity, Minister for Housing
Deputy E.J. Noel of St. Lawrence, Minister for Infrastructure
Deputy S.J. Pinel of St. Clement, Minister for Social Security
Connétable J.M. Refault of St. Peter, Assistant Minister for Treasury and Resources

In attendance -

Senator P.F. Routier, M.B.E., Assistant Chief Minister
Deputy S.M. Wickenden of St. Helier, Assistant Chief Minister
J.D. Richardson, Chief Executive, States of Jersey
Dr. M. Egan, Greffier of the States
M.H. Temple, Q.C., H.M. Solicitor General
T. Walker, Chief Officer, Department of Community and Constitutional affairs (for items B1 and B3)
B. Millar, Governor, States of Jersey Prison Services (for item B1)
E. Middleton, Director – Finance, Department of Community and Constitutional affairs (for item B1)
R. Bell, Treasurer of the States (for items B2 and B3)
C. Haws, Head of Financial Planning, Treasury and Resources Department (for items B2 and B3)
K. Hemmings, Head of Decision Support, Treasury and Resources Department (for item B3)
R. Johnson, Director - Social Policy, Department of Community and Constitutional Affairs (for item B3)
J. Rogers, Chief Officer, Department for Infrastructure (for item B4)
E. Littlechild, Director – Operations, Department for Infrastructure (for item B4)
P. Bradbury, Director – Corporate Policy, Chief Minister’s Department
P. Monamy, Clerk to the Council of Ministers

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

States business
14.03.2017.
1240/7/1(1)

A1. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. A1 of 8th February 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 14th March 2017 and commented specifically on the undermentioned items:

Television Licence Fee: exemption for Jersey residents aged 75 and over (P.117/2016) and Amendment

The Council, having reaffirmed its comments as previously agreed on P.117, decided that it also did not support the Amendment (lodged ‘au Greffe’ on 7th March 2017) by Deputy M. Tadier of St. Brelade and requested the Chief Minister to present a comment to the States Assembly accordingly.

Funding for Family Nursing and Home Care services - petition (P.122/2016)

Having noted that the Minister for Health and Social Services had already set in train the actions requested by Deputy G.P. Southern of St. Helier, and that on that basis the Minister was prepared to accept the proposition, the Council agreed that it was prepared to support the proposition and decided to present a comment to the States Assembly accordingly.

Draft Criminal Justice (Compensation Orders) (Amendment No. 3) (Jersey) Law 201- (P.2/2017)

The Council supported the draft Law.

Draft Water Pollution (Amendment No. 3) (Jersey) Law 201- (P.3/2017)

The Council, having accepted the recommendation of the Minister for Infrastructure and his Department, supported the draft Law.

Draft Income Support (Amendment No. 2) (Jersey) Law 201- (P.5/2017)

The Council, having recognised that proposed Regulations under the draft enabling legislation would provide for a new component within the Income Support Scheme, supported the draft Law.

States of Jersey Complaints panel: re-appointment of members (P.8/2017)

The Council, having recognised that members of the Complaints Panel served in an honorary capacity and that there were therefore no financial or manpower implications arising, noted that an agreed position within the Council was not required and that Ministers would therefore have a free vote.

Concessionary bus fares for the disabled: costs to be met by the States (P.9/2017)

The Council decided to reject the proposition of Deputy M. Tadier of St. Brelade on the basis that –

- an inequality would be created in relation to the Blue Badge Parking Permit Scheme for disabled drivers (Blue Badge permits also carried an administration charge of £15, and were renewable every 3 years); and
- the processing of applications and issue of travel passes constituted a new administrative cost to the Bus Operating Contract and loss of this revenue stream meant that costs would have to be met from money that would otherwise be spent on other services, such as bus services and infrastructure.

The Council decided to present a comment to the States Assembly accordingly.

Electoral Reform (P.10/2017) and Amendment

The Council noted that the proposition of Senator L.J. Farnham sought the agreement of the States (a) that legislation to change the composition and election of the States Assembly arising from the adoption on 2nd February 2017 of P.133/2016 as amended, should only come into force if it won the support of the majority of Islanders who voted in a YES/NO referendum, to be held before the end of 2017; and (b) to request the Privileges and Procedures Committee to bring forward an Act for a referendum and to consult independent experts to ensure that the wording of the question put to the electorate was fair and unbiased. The Council also noted an Amendment (lodged 'au Greffe' on 27th February 2017) by Deputy J.M. Macon of St. Saviour which sought the agreement of the States that 1. That "to be held before the end of 2017" be substituted with "to be held on the same day as the General Election in May 2018"; and 2. that the proposed referendum should be subject to a minimum participation threshold of 40 per cent of those on the electoral register at the time of the referendum; and that in the event of the proposal being supported by the Public, it should come into effect in 2022. The Council noted that an agreed position within the Council was not required and that Ministers would therefore have a free vote.

Forthcoming
announce-
ments.

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) a feature on 'Dangerous Dogs' was to be published in a forthcoming edition of the Jersey Evening Post;
- (b) the new States of Jersey Police Headquarters building was opening on 8th March 2017;
- (c) an advertisement was to be placed shortly for the position of Charity Commissioner for the Island;
- (d) the improved arrangements at the Green Street roundabout, instigated by the Department for Infrastructure, would be completed shortly and brought into use;
- (e) statistical details of Ministerial and departmental officer travel and accommodation costs of £500 and above would be published shortly;
- (f) the Public Accounts Committee had convened a Hearing on 13th March 2017 to follow-up its review of States' Travel and Accommodation Expenses;
- (g) an Emergency Planning Exercise was presently underway which was designed to test the emergency services' ability to deal with a major incident at sea;
- (h) the draft Official Publications (Amendment No. 2) (Jersey) Law 201- (which would remove the requirement that the Jersey Gazette must be published in a newspaper designated by Act of the States and replace it with a power for the Chief Minister, by Order, to prescribe the manner in which the Jersey Gazette was published) would be lodged 'au Greffe' shortly;

- (i) a workshop on the subject of 'Brexit' was to be held on Friday 10th March 2017 for all States members, in conjunction with the Jersey Financial Services Commission; and
- (j) the Minister for Health and Social Services advised that a new Director of Children's Services had been appointed on 8th March 2017.