

PM/MH/145
Re-issued 24.05.17

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(71st Meeting)

22nd March 2017

PART A (Non-exempt)

All members were present, with the exception of Deputy K.L. Moore of St. Peter, Minister for Home Affairs, from whom apologies for absence had been received.

Senator I.J. Gorst, Chief Minister - Chairman
 Senator L.J. Farnham, Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture (present for items A1 and B1)
 Deputy R.G. Bryans of St. Helier, Minister for Education
 Deputy S.G. Luce of St. Martin, Minister for the Environment
 Senator Sir P.M. Bailhache, Minister for External Relations
 Senator A.K.F. Green, M.B.E., Minister for Health and Social Services (present for items A2 and A3)
 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
 Senator A.J.H. Maclean, Minister for Treasury and Resources
 Connétable D.W. Mezbourian of St. Lawrence, Assistant Minister for Home Affairs

In attendance -

Senator P.F. Routier, M.B.E., Assistant Chief Minister
 Deputy P.D. McLinton of St. Saviour, Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services (present for items A1 and B1-B4)
 J.D. Richardson, Chief Executive, States of Jersey
 Dr. M. Egan, Greffier of the States
 R.J. MacRae, Q.C., H.M. Attorney General
 P. Bradbury, Director – Corporate Policy, Chief Minister’s Department
 I. Burns, Interim Chief Officer, Department of Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture (for item B1)
 A. Bannister, Senior Manager – Business Licensing, Population Office (for item B1)
 S. Hayward, Director of Treasury Operations and Investments, Treasury and Resources Department (for item B2)
 T. McMinigal, Policy Officer, Chief Minister’s Department (for item B2)
 K. Nutt, Head of Service, Ministry of External Relations (for items B3 and B4)
 D. Walwyn, Director, Ministry of External Relations (for items B3 and B4)
 T. Walker, Chief Officer, Department of Community and Constitutional Affairs (for item B4)
 A. Metcalfe, Director, Constitutional Affairs and Justice Policy, Department of Community and Constitutional Affairs (for item B4)
 A. Thorne, Communications Manager, Chief Minister’s Department (for item B4)
 R. Bell, Treasurer of the States (for item A2)
 P. Eastwood, Deputy Director, Treasury and Resources Department (for item A2)
 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 11th and 25th January, and 2nd March 2017 (all Part A and Part B), having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

States business
28.03.2017.
1240/7/1(1) A2. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. A1 of 8th March 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 28th 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 and Deputy M. Tadier’s amendment, noted that a briefing was to be provided to all Members of the States prior to the debate.

Draft Referendum (Jersey) Law 201- (P.4/2017)

The Council noted that arising from its review of Public Elections (Jersey) law 2002, the Privileges and Procedures Committee was proposing changes to the Referendum (Jersey) Law 2002 so as to provide for the designation of campaign groups in referends, the regulation of spending and the provision of advice on questions asked in referenda, in line with best international practice. It was recognised an agreed position within the Council was not required and that Ministers would therefore have a free vote.

Draft Employment of States of Jersey Employees (Amendment No. 8) (Jersey) Regulations 201- (P.11/2017)

The Council, with reference to its Minute No. A1 of 8th February 2017, noted that P. 11/2017 replaced P.105/2016 and an amendment thereto, which latter draft Law had been withdrawn, following helpful discussions with the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel and the Jersey Appointments Commission. It was recognised that a renewed focus in the function of the Commission had resulted in wider engagement with the States Employment Board and the States of Jersey Human Resources Department. This had resulted in the Commission seeking to provide consistency within the legislation and to clarify its role in the recruitment of the Chief Executive Officer for the States of Jersey, including enabling a Commissioner to be involved in the recruitment to the post. Such involvement would include decisions on which candidates were to be interviewed and which candidate offered the post (with a separate Commissioner overseeing the recruitment process). The Council accordingly supported the draft Regulations.

Parish Rates: payment by the States of Jersey (P.12/2017)

The Council, with the Treasurer of the States and the Deputy Director, Treasury and Resources, noted that the proposition of the Connétable of St. Helier asked the States to request the Minister for Treasury and Resources to consult on and bring forward for debate proposals for the payment of Parish Rates by the States in 2018. It was reported that the Comité des Connétables was not unanimous in its stance on the proposition and that progression of the necessary ‘revaluation’ of properties throughout the Island was proving to have its challenges. The Council, having noting the likelihood that the final Income Forecast would show an improved outturn for 2016, agreed that the Connétable of St. Helier should be invited to defer consideration of his proposition pending further discussion on the rationale for moving the issue forward as to how those funds to be channelled to the Parishes might be applied to best effect. Meanwhile, the Council agreed that it was prepared to support the proposition.

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22.03.2017
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Forthcoming announcements. A3. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. A2 of 8th March 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 appointment to the post of Director of Financial Services was to be made shortly;
- (b) the formation of the new Fly-Tipping Task Force would be publicised during the week commencing 20th March 2017;
- (c) statistics relating to Island students’ ‘A’ Level results would be published shortly;
- (d) the results of the review by the Taxes Office of personal taxation in the Island would be published imminently;
- (e) the outcome of the external review of the proposals for introducing non-commercial waste disposal charges would be available soon;
- (f) the report of the United Kingdom House of Lords Committee on the effects on the Crown Dependencies of the withdrawal of the U.K. from the European Union (E.U.) (‘Brexit’) was to be published shortly; and
- (g) the report of the United Kingdom House of Commons Justice Select Committee would be published during the week commencing 27th March 2017.