

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

21st March, 2018

Proposition P.2018/19

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy J S Merrett

Seconded by: Deputy E A Yerby

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

PRIORITISATION OF LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING

To delete the Proposition and to substitute therefor:-

- "1. To note that the Policy and Resources Committee will revise and resubmit the schedule of prioritised legislative drafting as part of the Policy and Resource Plan update in June 2018, and to direct it to include, in that revised schedule and in subsequent updates:
 - a. For each item:
 - i. An indication of the further work that is expected to be necessary in order to complete the drafting process, which may include information on the complexity of the law to be drafted and/or the decisions which remain to be made at Committee or States' level; and
 - ii. An indication of the resources likely to be required to complete the item, in terms of time and subject matter expertise;
 - b. For the portfolio as a whole:
 - i. An indication of the timeframe in which "high priority" and "moderate priority" items are to be completed; and
 - ii. An indication of whether the Policy and Resources Committee believes the resources are available to complete the prioritised legislation within the necessary timeframe, or of any shortfall, in terms of drafting time, skillset or other resources, that might exist.
2. To direct the Policy and Resources Committee to publish, in the 2019 Budget at the latest, a summary of the various options that would be available to increase the overall pace and productivity of the legislative drafting process, and the cost implications of those various options."

Explanatory Note

The purpose of the Policy and Resource Plan is not only to set and prioritise the policies of the States, but also to assign the resources necessary for their implementation. In order to do so effectively, States Members must be provided with at least the basic information about the level of resources required to effect any given policy.

The Policy & Resources Committee have already indicated that they will resubmit the schedule of legislative drafting priorities as part of the P&R Plan update in June 2018: this amendment requires them to provide enough information, in the revised version, to enable members to confirm whether they support the priority and pace of legislative drafting for the year ahead, or to consider whether they might wish to assign more (or fewer) resources, and a higher (or lower) priority, to any given piece of work. At the moment, the schedule does not provide sufficient information to allow States Members to consider constructive amendments to the prioritisation of legislative drafting, which is critical to put into effect this government's policy priorities.

A number of States Members have indicated that they would like to increase the pace of the legislative drafting process. The second part of this amendment asks P&R to provide options for doing so, together with any resource implications, and include this in the 2019 Budget (if not before), so that the States as a whole can decide if this is something they would like to pursue.