

IN THE STATES OF THE ISLAND OF GUERNSEY ON THE 9TH DAY OF JULY, 2014

**The States resolved as follows concerning Billet d'État No XIV
dated 2nd June 2014**

STATES REVIEW COMMITTEE

THE ORGANISATION OF STATES' AFFAIRS - FIRST REPORT

- I.- After consideration of the Report dated 23rd May, 2014, of the States Review Committee:-
1. To agree that in order to provide clear leadership through the co-ordination of policy and resources, there shall be a single senior committee, designated the Policy & Resources Committee, with the following main functions:
 - a) policy co-ordination, including leading the policy planning process;
 - b) allocation and management of resources, including the States' budget;
 - c) facilitating cross-committee policy development.
 2. To agree that the Policy & Resources Committee shall comprise five States' Members, none of whom shall be members of the Principal Committees.
 3. To agree that President of the Policy & Resources Committee shall be the Island's senior political office.
 4. To agree that the Policy & Resources Committee shall have responsibility for external relations and constitutional affairs and the Committee shall designate its President or one of its members as the States' lead member for external relations and constitutional affairs.
 5. To agree that most of the policy-making, regulatory and public service functions of the States shall be delegated to no more than nine Principal Committees, but when considering the precise allocation of such functions there shall be a general presumption in favour of rationalisation of committees where practicable.
 6. To agree that each Principal Committee shall be led by a President of the Committee and the number of other members shall be determined with reference to the range of functions, the workload and the likely number of sub-committees, but there shall be a presumption in favour of Principal Committees containing five States' Members unless there is a wide variance in the breadth of mandates among the Principal Committees.

7. To agree that there shall be a single Scrutiny Management Committee responsible to the States of Deliberation for the scrutiny of policy, finances and expenditure and legislation.
8. To agree that the States shall elect to the Scrutiny Management Committee a combination of States' Members and Members independent of the States whose background and expertise are particularly well-suited to scrutiny, the number of which will be determined in Stage 2 of the Review with reference to the need to fulfil the full range of scrutiny functions in a way which is both democratic and efficient.
9. To agree that the Scrutiny Management Committee shall provide for structured and co-ordinated scrutiny of policy and services, financial affairs and expenditure and legislation by convening Scrutiny Panels along the following lines:
 - a) when the Scrutiny Management Committee identifies the need to undertake a review or examination of policy or services, it shall appoint a 'task and finish' group comprising in the main States' Members especially suited to the scrutiny of that particular area of policy or service but who have no seats on any of the Principal Committees likely to come under scrutiny, supplemented if felt appropriate by persons independent of the States;
 - b) when the Scrutiny Management Committee identifies the need to undertake a review or examination of a financial matter, it shall appoint a 'task and finish' group drawn in the main from among a panel of members independent of the States who are especially suited to the scrutiny of financial affairs, supplemented if felt appropriate by States' Members unconnected to the matters under scrutiny but also to acknowledge that some tasks which are currently undertaken by the Public Accounts Committee require continuous scrutiny and will need to be organised and co-ordinated by the Scrutiny Management Committee on that basis and the most appropriate structure for fulfilling such functions will be determined in Stage 2 of the Review.
 - c) the Scrutiny Management Committee shall appoint a standing Legislation Review Panel to be chaired by the member of the Scrutiny Management Committee who leads in the scrutiny of legislation and with a membership which brings together a number of other States' Members and a number of persons independent of the States with backgrounds and skills especially suited to the scrutiny of legislation.
- 9A. To note that the effectiveness of the States' scrutiny function depends in part on the powers, resources and impartiality of the scrutiny committees and panels, and to direct that, prior to implementation of the improved committee system in

2016, the States Review Committee shall propose to the States ways of strengthening the powers, resources and impartiality of the scrutiny committees and panels.

10. To agree that the number of States' Members shall be determined with reference only to the need to fulfil the full range of States' functions in a way which would properly balance democracy and efficiency, but when considering the precise number of States' Members there shall be a general presumption in favour of some reduction.
11. To direct the States' Review Committee to report to the States early in 2015 with the detailed recommendations necessary in order for the improved committee system to be introduced to coincide with the 2016 General Election.
12. To note that the continuation of the review process will include further consultation with States' Members, officers and the wider public.

J TORODE
HER MAJESTY'S GREFFIER