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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(52nd Meeting)

(Business conducted by electronic mail)25th March 2020**PART A (Non-Exempt)**

All members were present, with the exception of Senator L.J. Farnham, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture, Senator S.Y. Mézec, Minister for Children and Housing, Deputy J. H. Young, Minister for the Environment and Deputy K.C. Lewis of St. Saviour, Minister for Infrastructure, from whom apologies had been received.

Senator J.A.N Le Fondré, Chief Minister
 Senator T.A. Vallois, Minister for Education
 Senator I.J. Gorst, Minister for External Relations
 Deputy R.J. Renouf of St. Ouen, Minister for Health and Social Services
 Connétable L. Norman of St. Clement, Minister for Home Affairs
 Deputy C.F. Labey, Minister for International Development
 Deputy J.A. Martin of St. Helier, Minister for Social Security
 Deputy S.J. Pinel of St. Clement, Minister for Treasury and Resources

In attendance -

P. Bradbury, Head of Ministerial Support, Office of the Chief Executive
 M. Clark, Clerk to the Council of Ministers

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A only.

Emergency
 legislation
 relating to
 Covid-19;
 decision to
 lodge 'au
 Greffe.'

A1. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. A1 of 20th March 2020, considered further proposed legislative amendments, designed to provide additional public protection and facilitate the delivery of essential supplies and services, as a consequence of the Covid-19 outbreak in Jersey:

Draft Covid-19 (Enabling Provisions) (Jersey) Law 202-

Lodged by the Minister for Health and Social Services, the Law would, if adopted, enable the States to introduce any emergency legislation which may be required to manage the effects and impact of Covid-19 in Jersey. It was noted that, until the end of the year, the States Assembly would be permitted to make primary law (for this purpose only) by Regulation, thus negating the requirement for legislation to receive the approval of the Privy Council and be granted Royal Assent. This would ensure that emergency legislation could be enacted as quickly as possible and deal with the likelihood that the Privy Council would not meet for several months, as a result of the pandemic;

Draft Covid-19 (Screening, Assessment and Isolation) (Jersey) Regulations 202-

Also to be lodged by the Minister for Health and Social Services, the Regulations would introduce new requirements for people to be screened or assessed for coronavirus. Powers would also be provided to enable appropriate officers to enforce the requirement for individuals to remain in a prescribed location for the purposes of screening, assessment, isolation or self-isolation, for the duration of the outbreak;

Draft Covid-19 (Schools and Day Care of Children) (Jersey) Regulations 202-

Lodged by the Minister for Education, the Regulations would provide specific powers for the Minister to require the closure of school premises or day care accommodation to prevent the contamination and spread of Covid-19, and also gave the Minister appropriate powers to ensure that alternative educational provision was made available, if necessary; and

Draft Social Security (Amendment of Law No. 12) (Jersey) Regulations 202-

Lodged by the Minister for Social Security, the Regulations sought to amend the Social Security Law and would set the value of the States Grant to the Social Security Fund (SSF) to zero in both 2020 and 2021, to assist the Minister for Treasury and Resources in addressing the financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic as swiftly as possible. It was acknowledged that, although non-payment of the States Grant would have financial implications for the SSF, the Minister for Social Security had the power to bring forward a proposition for a transfer from the Social Security Reserve Fund if necessary.

The Council noted the aforementioned draft legislation and endorsed the decision of the responsible Ministers to lodge the various Projets 'au Greffe,' for consideration by the States Assembly on 27th March 2020.