

Council of Ministers

(13th Meeting)

18th June 2024Part A (Non-Exempt)

All members were present.

Deputy L.J. Farnham of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Chief Minister (for items B2-B4 only)
 Connétable R. Vibert of St. Peter, Minister for Children and Families
 Connétable A.N. Jehan of St. John, Minister for Infrastructure
 Deputy C.F. Labey of Grouville and St. Martin, Minister for International Development
 Deputy S.G. Luce of Grouville and St. Martin, Minister for the Environment
 Deputy K.F. Morel of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Sustainable Economic Development (for part of items A2 and B1 and items B3-B4 only)
 Deputy M.R. Le Hegarat of St. Helier North, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs
 Deputy R.J. Ward of St. Helier Central, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning
 Deputy I.J. Gorst of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Minister for External Relations
 Deputy S.Y. Mézec of St. Helier South, Minister for Housing
 Deputy L.V. Feltham of St. Helier Central, Minister for Social Security
 Deputy E.M. Millar of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Treasury and Resources
 Deputy T.J.A. Binet of St. Saviour, Minister for Health and Social Services

In attendance -

Connétable M.K. Jackson of St. Brelade, Representative of the Comité des Connétables
 Deputy C.S. Alves of St. Helier Central, Assistant Chief Minister (for a time)
 Deputy M.R. Ferey of St. Saviour, Assistant Chief Minister
 Deputy M.R. Scott of St. Brelade, Assistant Minister for Sustainable Economic Development
 Deputy A. Howell of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services
 Deputy B. Ward of St. Clement, Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services
 M. Jowitt, K.C., H.M. Solicitor General
 L.-M. Hart, Greffier of the States
 R. Bell, Treasurer of the States
 T. Walker, Acting Chief Executive
 I. Burns, Chief Officer, Customer and Local Services Department (for item B4 only)
 T. Holvey, Chief Economic Officer, Department for the Economy (for item B4 only)
 I. Cope, Chief Statistician and Director of Statistics and Analytics, Cabinet Office (for items A2, B1 and B3 only)

A. Hacquoil, Group Director, Strategic Finance, Treasury and Exchequer (for items A2 and B1 only)
R. Johnson, Director, Health Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for item B1 only)
S. Duhamel, Associate Director, Public Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for part of items A2, B1 and item B4 only)
S. Davis, Principal Statistician, Statistics Jersey (for item B3 only)
G. Sproats, Statistician, Statistics Jersey (for item B3 only)
F. Walker, Head of Policy, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for items A2 and B1 only)
N. Day, Head of Strategic Housing and Regeneration, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for items A2 and B1 only)
P. Bradbury, Head of Ministerial Office
B. Markwell-Sales, Business and Governance Officer to the Council of Ministers
T. Mourant, Private Secretary to the Chief Minister
D. Le Marquand, Private Secretary to the Minister for External Relations (for part of items A2 and B1 only)
K.L. Slack, Senior Secretariat Officer, States Greffe
H. Cardinal, Trainee Secretariat Officer, States Greffe

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

Declarations of interest.

A1. Declarations of interest were received from the following Ministers in respect of items discussed at the current meeting –

- Deputy I.J. Gorst of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Minister for External Relations, in connexion with item B4, to the extent that he and his wife were directors of a company which potentially employed one individual who was not currently paid the living wage; and
- Deputy R.J. Ward of St. Helier Central, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning in connexion with the discussion of forthcoming business ('Fully funding education or training for all 16-18 year olds (P.38/2024)), to the extent that his wife was employed at Highlands College.

Forthcoming business.

A2. The Council discussed the following items of public business, which were scheduled to be debated by the States Assembly at the meetings on 25th June and 16th July 2024 –

Strategic Reserve Fund: Long-term funding plan (P.22/2024)

The Council recalled that it had presented comments on the proposition of Deputy M.B. Andrews of St. Helier North and noted that the proposer had since lodged an amendment to his proposition. This notwithstanding, the Council decided to continue to oppose the same;

Draft Statistics and Census (Jersey) Amendment Law 202- (P.29/2024)

It was noted that Deputy Sir P.M. Bailhache of St. Clement had lodged an amendment to P.29/2024 and the Council was informed that the intention was for it to lodge an amendment thereto, with which Deputy Bailhache was in agreement.

Officers informed Ministers that the Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC) was minded to also amend the proposition and, accordingly, it was agreed that it would be prudent to defer consideration until the meeting of the States Assembly of 16th July 2024, to afford sufficient time for any amendment from PPC to be considered; and

Cannabis: Decriminalisation of personal possession and recreational use (P.31/2024)

The Council recalled that it had lodged the second amendment to the proposition of Deputy T.A. Coles of St. Helier South, which amended paragraph (b) and removed paragraph (c) thereof. Deputy Coles had subsequently amended his own proposition to remove reference to people over the age of 18, which was an anomaly that the Council had discussed at its meeting on 4th June 2024.

It was noted that Deputy I. Gardiner of St. Helier North had lodged an amendment requesting that the Minister for Health and Social Services should reclassify cannabinal and cannabinal derivatives from Class A to Class B controlled drugs after consultation with the Misue of Drugs Advisory Council. Ministers were of the view that this predetermined the outcome of any such consultation and were, accordingly, supportive of the Minister lodging an amendment to Deputy Gardiner's amendment which referenced the Minister considering the reclassification of such drugs.