

Council of Ministers

(20th Meeting)

3rd September 2024

**Part A (Non-Exempt)**

All members were present, with the exception of, Deputy E.M. Millar of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Minister for Treasury and Resources, from whom apologies had been received.

Deputy L.J. Farnham of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Chief Minister (for items A5 and B2-B5 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

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 (for items A1-A4 and B1-B2 only)

Deputy S.Y. Mézec of St. Helier South, Minister for Housing

Deputy L.V. Feltham of St. Helier Central, Minister for Social Security

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 M.R. Ferey of St. Saviour, Assistant Chief Minister

Deputy C.S. Alves of St. Helier Central, Assistant Chief Minister

Deputy R.E. Binet of Grouville and St. Martin, Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services

Deputy A. Howell of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity, Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services

Deputy M.R. Scott of St. Brelade, Assistant Minister for Sustainable Economic Development

Deputy B. Ward of St. Clement, Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services

M. Jowitt, K.C., H.M. Solicitor General

Dr. A. McLaughlin, Interim Chief Executive and Head of the Public Service, Government of Jersey

R. Bell, Treasurer of the States (for part of items A5 and B3 and item B4 only)

W. Millow, Deputy Greffier of the States

K. Nutt, Chief Officer, External Relations Department (for item B2 only)

Advocate V. Bell, Legal Adviser, Law Officers' Department (for items A1-A4 and B1-B2 only)

R. Summersgill, Comptroller of Taxes, Treasury and Exchequer (for items A4 and B1 only)  
T. Le Feuvre, Director – Global Markets and International Agreements, External Relations Department (for item B2 only)  
P. Bradbury, Head of Ministerial Office  
L. Ferns, Project Support Officer, Office of the Chief Executive (for item B5 only)  
B. Markwell Sales, Business and Governance Officer to the Council of Ministers  
K.L. Slack, Senior Secretariat Officer, States Greffe  
C. Tucker, Trainee Assistant Secretariat Officer, States Greffe

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

- Minutes. A1. The Minutes of the meetings of 18th June and 2nd, 9th, 18th and 23rd July 2024 (Parts A and B), having previously been circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.
- Declarations of interest. A2. No declarations of interest were received from Ministers in connexion with any items of business discussed at the current meeting.
- Forthcoming business. A3. The Council discussed the following items of public business, which were scheduled to be debated by the States Assembly at the meetings on 10th September and 1st October 2024 –

Delivery of three bilingual primary schools (P.45/2024)

The Council recalled that this proposition had been lodged by Deputy Sir P.M. Bailhache of St. Clement and was informed by Deputy R.J. Ward of St. Helier Central, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, that he would be presenting comments on the proposition, which indicated that he was unable to support the same. He added that a survey on the proposition had been circulated to head teachers and that the resulting feedback would be presented to Members in advance of the debate. Ministers were reminded that there was nothing to prevent any individual head teacher, who wished for his or her primary school to be established as a bilingual school, from presenting a business case to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning; and

Draft Multinational Taxation (Global anti-base erosion – IIR tax) (Jersey) Law 202- (P.53/2024)

Deputy I.J. Gorst of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Minister for External Relations, informed the Council that the Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel had requested that consideration of this proposition should be deferred to 22nd October 2024 and that he and the Minister for Treasury and Resources had acceded to this request on the understanding that the debate was not further postponed.

- Online petition entitled ‘Make states old age pensions exempt from tax’. A4. The Council was informed that the online petition entitled ‘Make states old age pensions exempt from tax’ had exceeded 5,000 signatures and, as a consequence, the States Assembly would consider it for an in-Committee debate and welcomed Mr. R. Summersgill, Comptroller of Taxes, Treasury and Exchequer.

It was noted that, at the meeting of the States Assembly on 10th September 2024, the Chair of the Privileges and Procedures Committee would ask Members to confirm that they wished to hold such a debate and a date would be agreed. On the basis that there appeared to be some misunderstandings with regard to contributions

and taxation, the Council requested Mr. Summersgill to arrange for a briefing paper to be circulated to all Members in advance of the debate.

Common  
Strategic  
Priorities.

A5. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. B4 of 23rd July 2024, received a verbal update from Ministers in connexion with its 13 priorities within the Common Strategic Policy. Where work was ongoing, a progress report was not required at this juncture.

Extend nursery and childcare provision

It was noted that d'Auvergne Primary School would be entering into a project with the Child Care Trust to open a nursery on a pilot basis;

Provide a nutritious school meal for every child in all States primary schools

The Council was informed that an additional 5 States primary schools would be providing a school meal by September 2024 and full coverage would be attained by December 2024. Deputy R.J. Ward of St. Helier Central, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, expressed his thanks to the schools for their hard work to accommodate this priority;

Increase the provision of lifelong learning and skills development

It was noted that work was underway with the Open University on distance learning;

Start building a new hospital at Overdale

The Council was reminded that approval existed for demolition at Overdale and it was noted that the planning application for the new hospital had been discussed in detail with officers from the planning section of the Environment Department and would be formally submitted on 4th September 2024;

Reduce GP fees

It was noted that this had been achieved and that, with effect from 20th May 2024, Islanders had paid £10 less to visit their general practitioner following an increase in Government support;

Implement the recommendations from the Violence against Women and Girls Taskforce report

Deputy M.R. Le Hegarat of St. Helier North, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs, provided an overview on progress made against the 77 recommendations, the majority of which were underway or had been completed;

Transition to a living wage

The Council agreed that progress was being made to achieve an increase in the minimum wage to £13.00 per hour from April 2025. However, there was a misconception that the £20 million that had been allocated for this purpose was a 'subsidy', whereas it was an investment for change. It was suggested that the work undertaken by the Chief Economic Advisor on the increase in the minimum wage and its impact on inflation should be publicised;

Provide more affordable homes for Islanders and more confidence for the rented sector

Deputy S.Y. Mézec of St. Helier South, Minister for Housing, informed the Council that he had held positive meetings around rezoned sites for affordable homes. The final *tranche* of the First Step assisted purchase home ownership scheme, which was administered by Andium Homes, would be launched later in the year and had been well received. It was anticipated that the draft Residential Tenancy Law would be published during October 2024; and

Reform the planning service to enable sustainable development in Jersey

It was noted that the number of planning applications awaiting determination had reduced from 350 in February 2024 to 250. The number of planning decisions had increased by 24 per cent over the last 12 months and the number of decisions reached within the set timeframes had increased by 14 per cent. The pre-application advice service had been enhanced and officers participated in weekly case reviews to discuss complex cases and review appeal outcomes.

Deputy L.J. Farnham of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Chief Minister, thanked Ministers for the update and it was agreed that a report should be presented to the States Assembly at the end of 2024 on detailed progress made against the priorities.