

Council of Ministers

(15th Meeting)

9th July 2024**Part A (Non-Exempt)**

All members were present, with the exception of Deputy M.R. Le Hegarat of St. Helier North, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs, from whom apologies had been received.

Deputy L.J. Farnham of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Chief Minister (for items A4 and B2 – B3 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 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 A.S. Crowcroft of St. Helier, Assistant Minister for Infrastructure

Connétable M.K. Jackson of St. Brelade, Representative of the Comité des Connétables

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

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

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

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

M.H. Temple, K.C., H.M. Attorney General

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

N. Fox, Associate Director, Criminal Justice, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (for item B2 only)

B. Markwell-Sales, Business and Governance Officer to the Council of Ministers

K.L. Slack, Senior Secretariat Officer, States Greffe

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

- Minutes. A1. The Minutes of the meetings of the Council of 31st May (Part A only) and 4th June 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 of the items considered 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 meeting on 16th July 2024 –

New Healthcare Facilities Programme (P.43/2024)

The Council recalled that this proposition of the Hospital Review Panel had the potential to delay the New Healthcare Facilities programme and that it was appropriate that the budget for the project should be debated as part of the Government Plan 2025-2028, rather than as a standalone proposition. Accordingly, it approved comments to this effect for presentation to the States Assembly; and

Fully funding education or training for all 16-18 year olds (P.38/2024): amendment

The Council noted that Deputy I. Gardiner of St. Helier North had lodged an amendment to her own proposition.

- Responses by civil servants to questions from the public and Members of the States. A4. The Council was provided with an extract from the Hansard of the meeting of the States Assembly of 25th June 2024 and noted that, during questions without notice to the Chief Minister on that occasion, Connétable D.W. Mezbourian of St. Lawrence had highlighted poor communications by civil servants with Islanders and members of the States Assembly. She had indicated that she had been waiting to hear from a Senior Planning Officer for in excess of 3 weeks and had been endeavouring to arrange a meeting with a senior officer within the Health and Community Services Department since April 2024. In response to the question, Deputy L.J. Farnham of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter, Chief Minister, had undertaken to add the matter to the agenda of the Council.

The Council was informed by the Business and Governance Officer to the Council of Ministers that the 2 cases cited by the Connétable had been investigated. There had been correspondence with her from the Health and Community Services Department and the matter was being addressed. With respect to the delays within the regulation directorate of the Infrastructure and Environment Department, that section was endeavouring to provide responses within 10 working days and was being assisted with the corporate feedback system by the Customer and Local Services Department (CLS). On a related note, the Council was advised that it would receive a briefing at a future meeting from officers within the CLS on how feedback was dealt with.

Deputy T.J.A. Binet of St. Saviour, Minister for Health and Social Services, indicated that he had investigated the Connétable's complaint relating to his department, had responded to her and had agreed to a meeting.

The Chief Minister emphasised the importance of Ministers and officers acknowledging correspondence in a timely manner and thanked officers for the update.