



Scrutiny Management Committee

President's Observations- Public Hearing with the Committee for Home Affairs

This morning the Scrutiny Management Committee conducted one of its regular public hearings with States Committees, on this occasion the Committee for Home Affairs. The following comments are my summary of the main points arising from the session. They are not intended to be comprehensive but are designed to indicate what we now know as a result of the hearing that we did not know before.

The Panel was comprised of: Deputy Chris Green (Chair), Deputy Laurie Queripel and Non-States Member Advocate Peter Harwood.

1. The consequences of the Committee for Policy & Resources revision of the 3/5/5 savings targets have yet to be clarified for Home Affairs. Home Affairs sees its spending as largely service-led and will be pressing for an acknowledgement that further cuts cannot be found without affecting frontline services. There is as yet no clarity on the levels of savings which Committee for Policy & Resources will expect from Home Affairs in 2018.
2. The President of Home affairs confirmed that the JESSC Internal Audit report will not be made public; however the report will be shared with the Scrutiny Management Committee. Clearly we would prefer it to be made public. After considering the report the Scrutiny Management Committee will need to reflect on what information should be made public.
3. Law Enforcement incurred very significant overtime costs in 2016 (@£600K). This is largely a result of recruitment and retention difficulties; the police service is experiencing particular problems in recruiting locally on the island. Recruitment from the UK has also been affected by changes to public sector pensions in Guernsey.
4. The President Deputy Lowe intimated that the benchmarking exercise by Price Waterhouse Cooper (PWC) was unlikely to identify significant levels of financial savings.
5. The Guernsey Police Complaints Commission was a priority for action by the Home Affairs Committee and the existing members of the Police Complaints Commission have themselves raised concern over the current arrangements under which complaints against the majority of officers are dealt with internally.
6. Deputy Lowe was concerned about proceedings concerning children being subject to delay in the Royal Court.

7. The President of Home Affairs identified that civil service staffing had been reduced by 34 across the Committee's remit and that this was largely as a result of reductions in law enforcement.
8. The HOST programme was expected to save £500k per annum in rental costs by looking at a more effective use of buildings on the States property estate.

Deputy Christopher Green
President of the Scrutiny Management Committee

1st June 2017