



Scrutiny Management Committee

REVIEW OF ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 1AM WEDNESDAY 5TH JUNE

The Scrutiny Management Committee launches its review of Access to Public Information

The Scrutiny Management Committee today officially launches its review of Access to Public Information looking at the effectiveness of the existing 'Code of Practice on Access to Public Information' (the 'Code') to determine whether the Code has delivered thus far in helping to create a climate and culture of openness, accountability and good governance within the States and other Public Bodies as originally envisaged when it was introduced in 2013.

As part of the Review, the Committee will consider the current guidance, policies & procedures, undertake a critical analysis of requests to date, the case for or against enhanced legislation in support of the Code, and right to appeal through an independent person / organisation. Fundamentally, the Committee will seek to determine whether the Code remains fit for purpose.

The first stage of the Review will include a Call for Evidence from all interested parties including the general public which is launched today and will extend until the end of July 2019.

Deputy Chris Green, President of the Scrutiny Management Committee and Chair of its Review Panel, said:

“The Review of Access to Public Information will chime with many people in our community. ‘Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants’ and that is why better access to official public information can help to improve public confidence and trust in government.”

“Whilst I must stress that the Committee and its Panel are not in a position to make an adjudication on any individual application, the Call for Evidence will be an opportunity for all those interested in this area to share their views and experiences with the Committee which we would be most interested in hearing.”

Guidance on how to make a submission and the full Terms of Reference for this Review can be found on the Scrutiny Management Committee’s website www.gov.gg/scrutiny . The deadline for all submissions is close of business Friday 26th July 2019.

-ENDS-

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Embargoed until: 1am Wednesday 5th June 2019
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Enclosed: ‘Review of Access to Public Information’ Terms of Reference