

# Scrutiny Matters



# A GUIDE TO SCRUTINY IN JERSEY

States of Jersey  
States Assembly



États de Jersey  
Assemblée des États

[www.scrutiny.gov.je](http://www.scrutiny.gov.je)

**”Well structured and impartial  
scrutiny is vital to the success of  
ministerial government.”**

Chief Minister Frank Walker, December 2006

In December 2005, Jersey moved to a new system of Ministerial Government. There are currently 10 Ministers and 13 Assistant Ministers making up the Executive and 30 Non-Executive Members who are available for Scrutiny.

As part of the changes to Island government, the States of Jersey has had to change the way in which decisions are made. The Council of Ministers proposes and develops policy and Scrutiny examines it and holds the Council of Ministers to account.

## **Scrutiny....**

- Is a vital component of the States Assembly and is already proving to be effective, thanks to the help of the Jersey public.
- Protects the public interest by examining Executive policy decisions.
- Reviews and comments on both new and existing policies and may influence policy development.
- Seeks to involve the public in many ways so that the workings of the Executive are truly accountable to them.
- Works alongside the Council of Ministers to ensure balance as an equal part of the States Assembly.
- Is free to choose which issues to work on and welcomes suggestions from the public.
- Gives the public a voice to influence the development of policies and strategies that affect their lives.

**Scrutiny conducts its  
business in public**

# Jersey Scrutiny Panel Responsibilities

## Corporate Services Panel

Chief Minister's and Treasury and Resources Departments including corporate services, corporate policies, external relations and property holdings

## Economic Affairs Panel

Economic affairs and development including Tourism, Harbours and Airports, Regulation of Undertakings

## Education & Home Affairs Panel

Education, Sport and Culture including the Youth Service, and Home Affairs which includes Ambulance, Fire and Police services, Customs and Immigration and Registrar

## Environment Panel

Planning and all environment issues, transport and technical services, including waste, public transport and infrastructure

## Health, Social Security & Housing Panel

Health and social services, social security and housing

## Public Accounts Committee

All public expenditure. Works with the Comptroller and Auditor General. The Committee looks for value for money and elimination of waste

**Sub-Panels** are appointed as and when they are needed to assist with work on larger reviews

The Chairmen of the Scrutiny Panels, together with two additional Members, form the **Chairmen's Committee**. This coordinates the work of all five Panels and the Public Accounts Committee. It assists with identifying work in progress and helps to prioritise and plan Scrutiny reviews.

## **Scrutiny is evidence-based**

For more information, including Panel and Committee work in progress and member details, visit the Scrutiny website [www.scrutiny.gov.je](http://www.scrutiny.gov.je) which is regularly updated.

# The Jersey Scrutiny Process

The Executive is required to make decisions within the policy and budget framework set by the States of Jersey.

The function of Scrutiny is to provide the necessary checks and balances.

Panels review the business plans of their relevant departments, respond to public concern and interest and select topics for consideration and review.

Scrutiny Reviews have several stages:

- Call for evidence
- Site visits
- Public hearings
- Deliberation and discussion
- Production and publication of report

Scrutiny Panel reports acknowledge good practice and, where necessary, recommend improvements to services or changes to policy. After a suitable period, to allow for the implementation of recommendations, scrutiny panel reports are reviewed by panel members to find out whether recommendations have been put into practice.

## **The benefits of Scrutiny**

- Gives the public a voice.
- Makes sure everyone has the opportunity to express his or her view.
- Reassures the public that their interests have been taken into account.
- Ensure better democratic accountability.
- Allows for more rigorous questioning of government proposals at an earlier stage.
- Helps improve the delivery of public services by ensuring that decisions are soundly based on evidence.
- Communicates regularly with the Jersey public.
- Provides good feedback on the reasons why decisions have been taken; why choices have been made and why other options have been rejected.

**Scrutiny enables important issues to be clearly presented, widely debated and easily understood**

# Engaging with the Jersey Public

## How you can get involved

Scrutiny works best when the public are involved.

Scrutiny is committed to engaging actively with the Jersey public.

Scrutiny needs to hear your views

## Publicity

Look out regularly in the local media for

- Scrutiny updates
- Public hearing dates and times
- Updates on the progress of individual reviews.

The 'Scrutiny Matters' newsletter is also available providing timely updates, opinions and feedback on Scrutiny work in progress and completed reviews.

## Research

In order to track public awareness and understanding of Scrutiny and its work in progress, research is conducted regularly with the Jersey public using seminars, workshops, focus groups and surveys. If you would like to get more involved and tell us what you think **register online** at [www.scrutiny.gov.je](http://www.scrutiny.gov.je).

## Review Leaflets

A leaflet is created for every Scrutiny review. This gives an introduction to the topic and tells you:

- The Scrutiny members involved
- The terms of reference
- Contact details for further information

To pick up a copy simply visit the States Bookshop in Morier House where a full set of review leaflets is available or visit [www.scrutiny.gov.je](http://www.scrutiny.gov.je).

## Presentations

Scrutiny members are committed to communicating to as broad a cross-section of the Jersey public as possible. With regular presentations taking place across the island you will have the chance to meet Scrutiny members and find out more throughout the year.

A full programme of activity may be found on the Scrutiny website 'Get Involved' section.

## Attend a Panel meeting

Scrutiny Panel meetings are generally held in public. **Anyone is welcome to attend and observe.** If any item on the Panel's agenda is confidential, you will be advised and asked to withdraw for that item. Scrutiny Panel Hearings, where a witness is invited to give evidence on a particular topic, are also held in public.

## Submit a proposal

- Proposals can be made by anyone.
- Proposed topics need to be submitted in writing to the Scrutiny Office, based in Morier House.
- The website can also be used to propose a review topic – simply go to the 'XYZ' section.
- A topic can be submitted for consideration at any time in the year and all suggestions will be held on file.
- For advice on submitting a proposal, you are invited to contact the Scrutiny office to discuss this further. See the contact details on the back page.

## Write in

Anyone who is interested is invited to submit written evidence. This will be considered alongside witness statements during a review. All written evidence received by Scrutiny, unless confidential, will be uploaded to the website and can be viewed by members of the public.

## Scrutiny Online

The Scrutiny website is continually updated and is the best place to source the latest news, views and reviews.

Simply visit [www.scrutiny.gov.je](http://www.scrutiny.gov.je) to find out more.

The website plays a vital role in helping Scrutiny communicate with the public. The site is user-friendly and provides a thorough introduction to this vital area of Jersey's Government.

Here's a taste of what's available online:

- Current reviews
- About us
- Where to find us
- What's new
- The Panels in more detail
- How to get involved
- Register online
- Online forum

## **How to get in touch**

**Write to us at:**

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**Telephone us on:**

Tel: 441080  
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**We look forward to  
hearing from you**

[www.scrutiny.gov.je](http://www.scrutiny.gov.je)