Supervisory Committee Connétables de Jersey

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15th February 2021 (virtual meeting conducted online).

Present:

Minutes

Rates (Jersey)

Law 2005 and

Rates Assessors

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre Connétable de St Jean - C. H. Taylor Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert Connétable de Ste Marie - J. M. Le Bailly Connétable de St Ouën - R. A. Buchanan Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone

In attendance: Mrs S. R. de Gruchy, Secretary

Non-exempt (public) under Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011

1. The minutes of the meetings held on 7th and 21st December 2020, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

2. The Supervisory Committee discussed the roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccinations **Rates Assessors** - Covid-19 and its availability for Rates Assessors. The Committee recalled that the outbreak of the coronavirus lockdown in March 2020 had coincided with the work of assessing rateable vaccinations values in 2020 and had impacted on the work of some Assessors who had been required to shield. A query had been raised about the timescale for vaccinations, and thus the resumption of normal activities by Assessors, as this might minimise the impact on assessing in 2021. The Committee discussed the timetable published by the Government of Jersey and noted that, depending on age, Assessors might already have received a first vaccination, or could expect to receive this within the next few weeks, with the second vaccination from April 2021 (for those over 80). The Committee therefore decided that each Parish should continue to make appropriate arrangements to assist its Assessors to undertake their role safely whilst they awaited vaccinations in accordance with the published timetable.

3. The Supervisory Committee was reminded of certain requirements of the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005 namely:

a) Appointment of Chairman - Article 37(3) of the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005 required the members of an Assessment Committee, at the first meeting held in each year, to appoint one of their number to act as the Committee's chairman (until 31st December).
b) Minutes of proceedings - Article 37(6) required the Assessment Committee to keep minutes of its proceedings in a book kept for that purpose and this might be required as evidence.

c) Rates List - Article 5 required the Assessment Committee to make an assessment (in the specified circumstances) and to enter the assessment on the Rates List before the end of May in the rateable year.

Government Covid-19 subsidy scheme based on business rates 4. The Supervisory Committee noted that the Government of Jersey was working on a Fixed Costs Support Scheme for businesses severely impacted by Covid-19 Health Restrictions. In order to calculate the amount a business could claim under the scheme, a business would need to know the rates paid by the business in 2020 (the combined nondomestic rate, including both Parish specific rates and Island-wide rates) as part of the application process. The Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture Department had thought it prudent to alert the Parishes that they might receive calls from resident businesses within the Parish requesting proof of their rates paid for 2020. They apologised in advance for any inconvenience this might cause.

Chairman Date