

STATES GREFFE REGISTERED 16 JAN 2007	
Scrutiny	

I

15th January, 2007.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel,
Review of Jersey's Overseas Aid,
Scrutiny Office,
States Greffe,
Morier House,
St. Helier,
JE1 1DD.

To the Members of the Scrutiny Panel.

Thank you for asking me to submit my views on the terms as set out in your letter to me of 8th December, 2006.

- a) Up grading the Budget. The percentage system which was set up during my tenancy and was put forward by the then vice-president of the Finance Committee Deputy Derek Maltwood. I believe that this is a simply and just way of calculating for the budget and one that can easily be increased year by year. It also takes into consideration a true reflection of the amount the Island has gained from Income Tax etc.

The world outside believes we are rich and our per capita shows that we are among the better off of this world. It is also conceived that we deprive poorer countries of tax revenue. Therefore we must ensure that our percentage is increased in larger amounts. Whilst it is acknowledged that the budget may increase or decrease according to the size of our income, with an increase in our percentage we will be seen to be ethical in our giving to combat poverty. **The target for giving must be 0.7% and achieved in the shortest possible time.**

- b) It is paramount that the four main aspects for giving are adhered to Health, Education, Clean Water and agriculture. There is such a lot to do in these areas there is no need to expand, as these cover the basic needs of life to ensure that communities will prosper. Even disasters are covered under these four sections.

How money is allocated has always been fair, but difficult as you receive twice as much as you have to spend. So if you are proposing to look at new aspects, think carefully. Ensure that expertise is available to run a project, especially in the early stages of a new project. Numbers of those which will benefit from the funds available, it is not for just the chosen few.

Jersey has been good at supporting their own people, who have gone abroad with expertise to train and teach in many aspects but mainly health care.

- c) Measuring effective utilization. As you will know, annual reports must be made to the Committee but often you cannot achieve everything in the first year or often obtain the materials you need in the first year. Reporting back is essential, but remember they are in the third world, it takes time to get the equipment to people, the harder it is for supplies to arrive, the more desperate the need seems. Time and time again I have seen in different areas I visited the vast difference a small piece of equipment can make. However, we must never allow equipment to lie idle as they do not have the necessary skills. This is an important factor and still applies today. Vehicles is another concern, as often they do not have the expertise to keep them on the road, but then you find the gifted mechanic who seems to perform wonders to keep the hospital, orphanage, school transport going.

I do not think d) needs to be answered as it is covered in a)

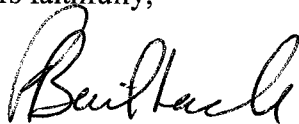
It is difficult to put into words my experiences, it is often easier to verbally relate specific situations to make the point. I believe that it is good to look at policies, and I did that during my tenure, with a group of local people who had some excellent expertise. The then Committee seriously looked at ideas put forward some unworkable and hence this started the quest for more money.

WORK PROJECTS, are not only a blessing to the recipient community or organization, they are also good for the Jersey participants, over the years we have seen lives turned around, we have seen people go out for long term appointments and we have seen people starting their own local organization to support areas. The system of giving pound for pound up to a certain figure has helped enormously, in all the four areas that Jersey Overseas Aid covers.

I would be happy to enlarge on any points in this letter or answer any other queries you may have.

I look forward to seeing any recommendations you may feel are necessary.

Yours faithfully,



P. Ann Bailhache