

2019.10.22

14 Deputy K.G. Pamplin of the Dean of Jersey regarding his interaction with the States of Jersey in respect of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016: (OQ.255/2019)

Further to his response to Written Question 437/2019, will the Dean explain what interaction, if any, he will seek with the States of Jersey to ensure that the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 is extended to Jersey as soon as practical?

The Very Reverend M.R. Keirle, B.A., Dean of Jersey:

I thank the Deputy for his question. The Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 provides provisions for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. It also makes some quite technical changes to the arrangement for clergy disciplinary proceedings and disqualification and suspension of lay church officers, all in relation to safeguarding. As far as the safeguarding provisions are concerned, we take safeguarding very seriously and the Deanery has already put in place robust procedures and good practice guidelines to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are as safe as possible in their dealings with the churches in this Island. Legislative arrangements, equivalent to those in the 2016 measure, will be included in the revised canons of the Church of England in Jersey, which will be placed before the States in due course where Members will be asked to approve an Order in Council applying those canons to Jersey, as I have stated in my written answer.

3.14.1 Deputy K.G. Pamplin:

I thank the Dean for answering the question, which is a very rare appearance, but very important on this matter. The subject of safeguarding to me is a very important one. Given his time since his arrival on the Island, can he pinpoint where he has seen such improvements since his arrival on the Island on this very important issue of safeguarding?

The Bailiff:

I am sorry, Deputy, the original question dealt with the involvement of the States of Jersey in connection with safeguarding. That is the only basis on which the Dean can be asked questions and, therefore, I am afraid I do not allow it as a question.

The Dean of Jersey:

Sir, may I just say, if the Deputy would like to speak to me afterwards I would be delighted to give him an answer which is comprehensive.

Deputy K.G. Pamplin:

May I also just quickly thank the Dean on this occasion and yourself, Sir, for allowing this question to be asked in the first place on what is hopefully an enjoyable first day on the job in your new role.

The Bailiff:

Thank you very much indeed, Deputy, that is very kind of you.