WQ.129/2018

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN**

**ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2018**

**Question**

Will the Chief Minister explain how political oversight of the Communications Unit is exercised; which Ministers are responsible for exercising such oversight; and whether Ministers are able to amend the content before communications are released to the public?

**Answer**

As Chief Minister, I am politically accountable for the communication directorate, and will be delegating to the Assistant Chief Minister, Connétable Richard Buchanan, the day-to-day discharging of these responsibilities.

In doing this, Connétable Buchanan will have regular liaison with the Communications Directorate, and oversee the communications strategy. This is in line with the newly-issued Codes of Conduct and Practice for Ministers and Assistant Ministers, which continues to place obligations on Ministers and Assistant Ministers around announcements, including making important announcements in the Assembly wherever possible, consulting with colleagues, and informing the Chief Minister of announcements in advance. This includes being able to amend the content of ministerial communications, although communication which does not involve Ministers or Assistant Ministers directly, and which relates to the States of Jersey administration only, will be approved by the relevant senior official responsible for the issue.