WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE BY DEPUTY G.C.L. BAUDAINS OF ST. CLEMENT

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 18th JANUARY 2005

Ouestion

As a result of the adoption of P.134/2004, ('Regulatory Reform') of the Policy and Resources Committee by the States on 15th September 2004, all Committees are required to carry out audits of legislation which fall under their own administration. Would the President advise what progress the Committee has achieved to date in this regard, when he expects the work to be finalised and whether the Committee is working to a prioritised list? Should such a programme exist, would the President make it available to members?

Answer

The Committee will review all of the legislation under its control, in compliance with the States decision. Planning is the area within Environment and Public Services which has one of the highest administrative burdens. For this reason, a review of Planning regulations, which coincides with the introduction of the new Planning Law will be the first Environment and Public Services area to be reviewed.

As a result of the transfer of administration of functions from the Economic Development Committee to the Environment and Public Services Committee, there is a considerable amount of additional legislation that the Committee is now responsible for and it is not yet possible to put a timescale on when the full review and prioritisation process of former Agriculture and Fisheries legislation, will be complete. Suffice it to say it must be completed before December 2005.

I would add that the Committee has already, and in addition, had plans in hand to review Agricultural legislatior in the early part of this year using the National Audit Office as external reviewers.

The Committee will work on reviewing all other legislation in close communication with the Policy and Resources Department which is assisting all Committees in this important work.

If the Deputy or any other States members has particular areas they believe should be a target for regulatory reform within Environment and Public Services, the Committee would be grateful to receive suggestions and will work on those as the suggestions are made.