

23.01.17

4 Deputy M.B. Andrews of St. Helier North of the Chief Minister regarding chairs appointed to independent bodies (OQ.3/2023):

Given that 13 out of 16 chairs of independent bodies and independent office holders are appointed through the executive powers of Ministers, will the Chief Minister advise whether she will consider if such appointments should instead be made by the States Assembly; and if not, why not?

Deputy K.L. Moore of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter (The Chief Minister):

Happy New Year to you. This is a matter that has previously been considered by both P.P.C. (Privileges and Procedures Committee) and the Assembly, including in P.205/2009 and the States of Jersey (Appointment Procedures) (Jersey) Law 2018 under which most appointments are now made. The 2018 law requires the Assembly to be given at least 2 weeks' notice of a Minister's intention to make an appointment during which time appointments can be questioned or challenged. These were deemed as the most preferable arrangements when this was last considered by the Assembly. I think this followed some discomfort among Assembly Members when it came to debating the benefits or not of certain members of the public. It became quite an uncomfortable experience at times. It should be noted that some appointments will not be covered by the 2018 law and they will be subject to their own legislative procedures. It is of course open to the Assembly to make whichever arrangements it prefers or sees as appropriate. Ministers will only make appointments to statutory bodies in accordance with legislation adopted by the States.