WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER BY THE CONNÉTABLE OF ST. MARTIN ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 8th OCTOBER 2019

Question

Further to a Quarterly Public Hearing with the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel on 20th September 2019, in which he outlined that Growth, Housing and Environment may be split into separate Growth and Housing and Environment departments following the completion of a consultation process, and that plans to make the Government of Jersey a single legal entity are still in place, will the Chief Minister –

- (a) provide an update on these two initiatives, setting out the progress Ministers and officers have made to date; and
- (b) publish a timetable setting out when these two initiatives will be brought to the States Assembly for debate, and indicate any legislative changes they will both require in order to be implemented?

Answer

During the Scrutiny hearing I made it clear that both these areas were works in progress.

With regard to the Target Operating Model arrangements for Growth, Housing and Environment (GHE), as I outlined in my response during the hearing, when the consultation originally started, Ministers had made it clear that there were some potential changes that could result in part of the department's proposed structure changing. The formal consultation has now closed. In accordance with our policies and procedures, we are considering and reviewing the outcome of the consultation. Again, as I made clear at the meeting, I anticipate the outcome of that being published in the next few weeks; at which time an update will be prepared for all Members.

Draft Regulations are required to implement the move to a single legal entity for the Government of Jersey, as decided by the States Assembly in March 2018. These draft Regulations update the whole of Jersey Law to replace existing references to individual ministerial offices with references to the Government of Jersey as a single legal entity. This is a considerable piece of work that required every law in Jersey to be reviewed, which officers are continuing to progress. At this stage, it is not expected that draft Regulations will be ready for consideration by the Council of Ministers until early in 2020.