WQ.61/2020

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE BY DEPUTY K.G. PAMPLIN OF ST. SAVIOUR ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2020

Question

What work will be required to ensure the implementation of all of the aspects of 'Electoral Reform 2020' (P.126/2019), subject to the Assembly's approval; and will this work include a proposal to move the next election from May to October?

Answer

If P.126/2019 is approved, amendments will be brought forward to make all of the necessary changes to the legislation which underpins the Public Elections process, as well as the States of Jersey Law 2005 and the Standing Orders of the States. Any alteration to the electoral legislation framework will need to debated and approved by the Assembly by May 2021, in order that we avoid making changes within 12 months of the next elections, currently scheduled for May 2022, as this is not considered good practice by the Venice Commission.

P.126/2019 is independent of any proposals to move the election date. This is an issue which has been considered by the PPC Sub-Committee looking at reform of the composition and election of the Assembly, but discussions with States Members and some public consultation will need to be undertaken before any proposals to alter the timing of the election period are brought forward.