

2019.12.10

14 Senator K.L. Moore of the Minister for Infrastructure regarding the identification of savings within his portfolio: (OQ.301/2019)

Following the Assembly's decision to adopt the Amendment to the Government Plan, relating to an increase in parking charges, how, if at all, does the Minister propose to make an equivalent saving within his portfolio?

Deputy K.C. Lewis (The Minister for Infrastructure):

As no adjustment was made to the cash limit of the Growth, Housing and Environment Department, following the adoption of Amendment 2 to the Government Plan, there is currently an unplanned saving of £700,000 in the Department's budget. No decision on how this will be found has yet been made and this will be going to the Council of Ministers in the next few weeks.

3.14.1 Senator K.L. Moore:

Given that no decision has yet been made, how does the Deputy propose to continue with his budget into 2020, given that we are fast approaching 1st January? The later any decision is made, the heavier the impact that will be on the Department's budget during that period.

Deputy K.C. Lewis:

Indeed. As I say, the decision will be made in the next few weeks, but I am determined there will be no cuts to public services.

3.14.2 Senator K.L. Moore:

Would the Minister perhaps give us an area that he is considering? He must have some inkling as to where he is going to find these savings.

Deputy K.C. Lewis:

As I said, that decision will be made within the next few weeks and I am determined that public services will not be cut.