

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2011 (P.99/2010): SECOND AMENDMENT (P.99/2010 Amd.(2)) – COMMENTS

**Presented to the States on 10th September 2010
by the Council of Ministers**

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The Council of Ministers opposes this amendment.

Deputy G.P. Southern of St. Helier proposes that the net revenue expenditure of the Education Sport and Culture Department shall be increased by £67,000 in order to maintain the level of foreign language assistants in secondary schools and not proceed with that element of the Comprehensive Spending Review proposal ESC-S4 and the net revenue expenditure of the Treasury and Resources Department shall be decreased by the same amount by reducing the allocation for restructuring.

Comment

This saving has been offered as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review for the Education Sport and Culture Department. Exit surveys over the past 2 years showed that language assistants were required to undertake some non-specialist tasks, suggesting there was some spare capacity in the system. By focussing the work of language assistants solely on support for language teaching it is expected that standards will be maintained.

Whilst the language assistants provide valuable additional support for pupils learning a modern foreign language, it remains the responsibility of the well qualified and very capable modern foreign language teachers in each secondary school to deliver high standards of teaching and learning in their specialised subject areas and to ensure that pupils progress as expected.

The Department believes that the creative use of technology in the future, particularly video conferencing, can provide pupils with enhanced opportunities to converse with similar aged pupils and teachers in other jurisdictions. Arrangements to deliver this are currently being developed by the Ille et Vilaine and Jersey working group.

Deputy Southern correctly states that the plan is to only use assistants with exam groups. However, when these pupils begin their exams in May the language assistants will then be available to support other pupils for the remainder of the term.

The allocation of language assistant hours required by each school is based on the number and level of exam groups. The following table shows the requests made by schools for language assistant time to support examination groups over the coming year. Alongside are the actual allocations.

School	Les Quennevais	Grainville	Le Rocquier	Haute Vallée	Hautlieu	JCG	VC
Requested Hours	8	10	6	13	33	21	20
Allocated Hours	8	10	8	13	32	24	20
Difference	0	0	+2	0	-1	+3	0

The table shows clearly that the current provision of language assistant support for exam classes meets the requirements of schools. The variances occur where circumstances have changed since the requests were submitted.

It should be noted that additional provision has now been made available to meet an increased demand in Italian and Spanish. The cost of this has been met from within the Schools and Colleges budget.

The department will ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place across schools to maintain quality and monitor the impact of this change.

Financial implications

The amendment proposes that the financial implications are neutral and this is achieved by reducing the central provision for restructuring costs held by Treasury and Resources.

Members are referred to the Council of Ministers comment to P.99/2010 Amd. where the Council has explained in detail the implications of using this central provision for restructuring to offset funding increases.