

21.03.02

7 Connétable A.S. Crowcroft of St. Helier of the Minister for Treasury and Resources regarding the review of the provision of public services by the Parishes (OQ.55/2021):

What progress, if any, has the Minister made in implementing the decision of the States Assembly on 16th December 2020, in adopting the tenth amendment to the Government Plan, to review the provision of public services by the parishes?

Deputy S.J. Pinel of St. Clement (The Minister for Treasury and Resources):

The short answer is that there has been little progress to date. This is due to other pressures on the workload of the Treasury and Exchequer Department as well as the other departments, particularly Infrastructure, Housing and Environment, that will need to participate in the review. I am aware that this is an important matter and not just for the Connétable. The Comité des Connétables has also written to me to enquire about progress. I last responded to them on 12th February. I am grateful that the States Assembly approved, in the amended tenth amendment, an expenditure allocation of £50,000 for the department to secure assistance to carry out this review. I have asked the Treasurer to progress this with more urgency once current pressures have abated. I fully expect the Connétable and the Comité to play an active role in the review, beginning with them being consulted on terms of reference when they have been drafted.

3.7.1 The Connétable of St. Helier:

I am grateful to the Minister for her response and her candour. We have now had about a quarter of the time that is available for this review, given that it was to be completed by the end of this year. Is the Minister confident that the timetable she is setting out with her officers can meet this deadline?

Deputy S.J. Pinel:

The amendment to the Connétable's amendment removed the specific time deadline for this. If I can just quickly report what the accompanying C.O.M. (Council of Ministers) amendment stated, it says that: "In order for a proper understanding of all the facts and for all affected parties to have an opportunity to express their views, a thorough review will need to be undertaken. That cannot happen in the timeframe the Connétable has suggested. Therefore this amendment takes out that deadline." It further says: "We will commit to the review and will report back on the outcomes in 2021."