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WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS BY DEPUTY S.Y. MÉZEC OF ST. HELIER ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2015

Question

"What impact assessment, if any, has been carried out on the cuts to the States of Jersey Fire Service, specifically with regard to the impact on safety and fire prevention?"

Answer

An impact assessment on a range of savings scenarios was undertaken by the Chief Fire Officer in February of this year. Public and firefighter safety were prioritised and the impact assessment was used to identify the posts that would be designated for vacancy management in 2015 and 2016 to enable the Fire & Rescue Service to deliver its savings targets.

The three vacant firefighter posts (two multi-functional firefighters and one fire prevention officer) are being managed by adjusting workloads and reassigning staff to limit the impact on the delivery of front line services. This has ensured that the number of firefighters available 24/7 to respond to any emergency is unaffected.

As part of the wider public sector reform programme senior fire officers have developed a change programme called 'JFR2020', the aim of which is to review all of the Fire & Rescue Service's functions and to redesign these so as to limit the impact of the cuts as far as possible. All personnel and the Fire and Rescue Service Staff Association have been briefed and indeed, Association officials have agreed to work with senior officers in the redesign process.