

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY SENATOR J.L. PERCHARD
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 20th OCTOBER 2009**

Question

“When does the Chief Minister expect that he will be in a position to formally request the U.K. to extend their ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to Jersey?”

Answer

It is impossible to give a precise answer to this question.

Before Jersey requests the ratification of any international convention or such an agreement is extended, a thorough analysis is carried out into the legislative, policy and resource requirements to determine whether Jersey is compliant with the international obligations and what changes may be required to achieve compliance.

This is essential to ensure that, if the convention was extended, the United Kingdom Government would not be held to be in default of its international obligations on behalf of Jersey.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child requires cross-departmental implementation, and a detailed matrix of the convention obligations and compliance is currently being undertaken by the Education, Sport and Culture; Health and Social Services; Home Affairs; Probation and Law Officers Departments.

There is a considerable amount of work still to be carried out but, on the basis of the initial analysis so far, it appears that there may be a need to introduce new primary and subordinate legislation, to review certain policies and to make provision for some significant additional resource commitments. Some of this is currently in progress, but the timetable for all the changes is not yet certain.