

STATEMENTS ON A MATTER OF OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITY

5. Statement by the Chief Minister regarding the relocation of Mr. Andrew Williamson to the States Greffe Offices

5.1 Senator F.H. Walker (The Chief Minister):

The Assembly will know that Mr. Andrew Williamson is undertaking an independent review of the current child protection arrangements in Jersey. As of yesterday, Mr. Williamson's administrative support is being provided by the Greffier of the States and can I say, Sir, I am very grateful to the Greffier and his team for agreeing that this should happen. But, for the avoidance of any doubt, let me state here and now that Mr. Williamson is carrying out a fully independent review. There has never been, nor will there be, any interference in his work. He is a man of considerable experience, and incidentally I confirmed that with the Ministry of Justice yesterday, and standing who would not countenance anyone trying to influence him. It is too important to the vulnerable children of our Island for the outcome of this review to be the subject of any form of unfair political prevarication. I confirm that Mr. Williamson has agreed to this change of location.

5.1.1 Senator S. Syvret:

Can I just take this opportunity to thank the Chief Minister for recognising the importance of the appearance of objectivity in this inquiry. It would have been preferable had he recognised this 2 weeks ago, but nevertheless he has now recognised it and I would therefore ask to withdraw the proposition I had listed for debate today.

The Bailiff:

Are there any questions for the Chief Minister? No?