

24.02.06.

9.15 Deputy L.M.C. Doublet of the Minister for Children and Education regarding same-sex parental rights legislation. (OQ.21/2024)

Will the Minister please advise what plans he has for progressing the same-sex parental rights legislation, which will update the Children (Jersey) Law 2002, the Marriage and Civil Status (Jersey) Law 2001 and associated consequential amendments, and what priority he will be giving this work?

The Connétable of St. Peter (The Minister for Children and Education):

P.104/2023, the Draft Children and Civil Status (Amendments) (Jersey) Law was lodged by my predecessor and is currently being reviewed by the Children, Education, Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel. To allow enough time for the review to be completed, the debate has been listed for the sitting starting on 19th March, and, certainly from my point of view, there is no reason to change that date. So depending on the outcome and the timeline of the panel's review, I fully intend to prioritise this work and proceed with the debate on that date. If at all possible, I want to avoid any further delays for the families who are keenly and patiently waiting for this important legislation to be debated.

9.15.1 Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

Will the Minister ensure that there is sufficient officer resource to make sure that the consequential amendments are completed and before the Assembly well before the end of this year, please?

The Connétable of St. Peter:

Yes, as I have said, I do not wish there to be any delays. I fully support this legislation and I will continue to prioritise the creation of the legislation to the same extent as my predecessor and ensure that it has the appropriate level of support.