WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR TREASURY AND RESOURCES BY DEPUTY M.R. LE HEGARAT OF ST. HELIER ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 2nd JULY 2019

Question

Further to the response to Written Question 250/2019, will the Minister state when the half-yearly report on Government finances will be published; will she ensure that the report provides information on departmental expenditure as of the end of April 2019, as requested in Written Question 250/2019; and will she explain what approach she plans to take in respect of anticipated overspends and underspends at the end of the year?

Answer

As per the response to Written Question 250/2019, the Minister has committed to publishing the results of departments for the first half of the year. As a half yearly report, it will provide States Members and Members of the public with high level details of the net revenue expenditure of departments as at the end of June and the forecast for the remainder of the year with explanations of material variances, as well as forecasts for general revenues income. It will not refer back to the April position or any other preceding months.

The Public Finances Law does not permit any individual department to overspend against the total approved budget so any pressures identified in the half yearly report will have to be managed by the end of the year.

To this end Directors General work collectively with Treasury and Exchequer officers throughout the year to manage resources across the government within available budgets. The Minister can then approve reallocations of budgets within the overall approved spending envelope to manage resources across departments based on the advice of officers and in accordance with Ministerial priorities.

The information requested by the Deputy will be available by the end of July with the intention to provide it before the last States sitting on 16th July.