WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 17th JANUARY 2012

Question

Will the Chief Minister inform members what progress, if any, has been made on negotiations with public sector employee representatives listed below on their respective 2011 pay claims –

Civil servants
Manual workers
Nurses
Teachers
Police
Prison officers
Other uniformed services?

Will he also state what progress, if any, has been made in negotiating the £7million of savings from public sector terms and conditions contained in the Annual Business Plan for 2012?

Will he further outline for members the schedule of meetings he has confirmed to resolve these issues and state when he expects to be in a position to report their resolution to the Assembly?

Answer

Deputy Southern asked a similar Oral question on this issue on 6th December 2011 and the answer remains largely the same.

The States Employment Board has received pay claims from the majority of the groups mentioned, but not all - Nurses and Midwives and Prison Unit Managers remain outstanding. The SEB met on 10th January to consider the claims made and instructed officers to commence negotiations. Preliminary meetings with Civil Servants and Manual Workers have already been held.

The Human Resources, Employment Relations Team, in agreement with pay groups and departments, are setting up a series of meetings in the next few weeks to address the pay claims in more detail. Consultation and discussions will also take place on public sector terms and conditions of service in order to achieve the savings outlined in the 2012 Annual Business Plan agreed by the States.

Given the complex nature of negotiations it is not possible to determine when such negotiations will be completed, suffice to say that meetings with pay groups will start in January and the States Employment Board intends to make substantial progress in the coming months.