

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN ADDITION FOR 2017 – 2019 (P.68/2016) – THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT (P.68/2016 Amd.(13)) – AMENDMENT

**Lodged au Greffe on 20th September 2016
by Senator P.F.C. Ozouf**

STATES GREFFE

DRAFT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN ADDITION FOR 2017 – 2019
(P.68/2016) – THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT (P.68/2016 Amd.(13)) –
AMENDMENT

1 PAGE 2, AMENDMENT 1 –

For the words “increased by £156,000 in 2017” substitute the words “increased by £104,000 in 2017 and by £156,000 in”; and after the words “of Jerriais” insert the words “and the revenue heads of expenditure of the Chief Minister’s Department and the Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture Department shall both be reduced by £52,000 in 2017 and the revenue head of expenditure of the Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture Department shall be reduced by £35,000 in 2018 and 2019”.

2 PAGE 2, AMENDMENT 2 –

For the figure “£156,000” substitute the figure “£121,000”.

SENATOR P.F.C. OZOUF

REPORT

I fully support the initiative to save Jérriais from certain extinction.

I am fully supportive of collective responsibility, and the only issue on which I have not supported colleagues has been in the teaching of languages.

Throughout my life I have been a passionate promoter of language education. Languages are a window into another world, and whether those languages are modern languages, classical languages or dialects, they all play a vital role in Education.

Until this year, I had not appreciated the seriousness and urgency of the problem that we face that without action, the language I was privileged to hear from birth – Jérriais – is now in imminent danger of being lost forever.

I am one of the few States Members who can listen to, read and understand Jérriais almost fluently.

Sadly, whilst I did speak it as a child, I can no longer, apart from saying a few sentences.

Until recently, it was perhaps not appreciated that the learning of one language is not a binary choice. The debate about languages is not about Jérriais or French.

The evidence is absolutely unequivocal, that to learn a first language takes a certain number of thousand hours to get fluency, but that number is significantly reduced when learning your second, third or fourth, particularly if they are related languages.

Jérriais will not be for everyone.

French will not be for everyone, nor will the other languages I studied to fluency at university – German and Spanish.

Everyone is capable of learning languages with good teaching.

The learning of languages gives the learner a window on another world, an understanding of culture, an understanding of history, literacy and thought quite apart from a respect for others that is unmatched.

I want to give learners in Jersey the opportunity of learning Jérriais, of learning it well and professionally, with outstanding teachers and materials.

There is much to be done in the teaching of languages within our education system, and I am absolutely confident that Minister for Education and his team will make significant progress in improving the standards of language education in all respects.

It may be that further investment is needed in the future or that choices about the curriculum are required to be made.

I recognise Jérriais is at a crisis point. We can act now or it will die.

At the same time I understand, as a former Minister for Treasury and Resources, and as one who attends the Council of Ministers, that fiscal responsibility is important.

Since the bold and courageous amendment by the Connétable of St. Saviour – I would suggest the only remaining fluent speaker of Jérriais in the States today, there have been some constructive discussions.

Financial and manpower implications

It has been established that the existing budget within the Education Department for Jérriais is allocated for some teaching.

The first amendment therefore proposes to fund roughly the amount that was allocated to pay for the teachers – who for the first time are actually part of the Education Service and are therefore fully integrated as professional teachers. This is no disrespect to the huge and valiant effort of the existing team at the Office de Jérriais. Their retirements open up the possibility for new teachers to be part of the education system for the first time, with all the benefits that a professional curriculum in Education will bring.

A funding solution from contingencies should be avoided, and with goodwill from the Education Department and the Chief Minister's Department, it can be. Similarly, whilst it is accepted that 3 replacement teachers are needed, it is thought that it would be difficult to recruit them in 2017.

Hence the total amount is reduced for 2017.

Similarly, what is of the upmost importance is confirmed funding for 3 teachers in 2018 and 2019, and you will also probably need more resources to promote the language and additional work. The 2nd Part of the amendment permits a debate as to whether some of the cost of the professional teachers could come from the existing Jérriais Budget.

This amendment is designed to provide members with a slightly amended way forward to give the Education Department the funding it requires to teach Jérriais without compromising Contingencies, and permits a debate on the total quantum of resource to be made available from 2018 onwards and from where it might come.