

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY T.M. PITMAN OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2013**

Question

Given that the newly appointed Chair to oversee the independent inquiry into Historic Child Abuse has had to withdraw due to ill health, will the Chief Minister clarify what progress, if any, has been made in finding a replacement?

What impact, if any, has this had on the proposed timetable for the inquiry?

Answer

The following information has been provided by the Greffier of the States, who was charged to undertake the recruitment process. As Chief Minister I have no involvement in this.

The Greffier has indicated that following the unfortunate sudden illness of Mrs Sally Bradley QC, work is being carried out to find a suitable replacement to chair the Committee of Inquiry into historical child abuse in Jersey.

An outline of the timetable for recruitment for the chairman is as follows:

- 22nd August 2013: First round of informal meetings in London with potential candidates
- 11th September 2013: Second round of informal meetings in London
- Early October 2013: A small number of suitable shortlisted candidates will be invited to a formal discussion and interview in Jersey with the full selection panel.
- By mid to late October 2013: Announcement of the name of the proposed chairman once agreement has been reached on the terms of the engagement.

As soon as a chairman has been identified the selection panel will work with that person to identify two suitable people to serve as committee members. A number of potentially suitable people for these positions had already been identified when Mrs Bradley suffered a stroke and it is therefore anticipated that it will be possible to work relatively swiftly with the new chairman to interview and select committee members although realistically it will be late October or early November before the selection is complete.

The appointment of the chairman and members must be ratified by the States and the proposition has a 4 week lodging period. It will therefore be late November or early December before the ratification by the States can take place.

In initial discussions with potential chairmen it is being made clear that they must be free to begin work on the inquiry in early 2014 and it therefore seems likely that the committee will begin its work by February 2014 at the latest.