

2018.12.03

**5 Deputy M.R. Higgins of the Chairman of the States Employment Board regarding the suspension of public sector employees following the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry: [OQ.231/2018]**

Further to written question 248/2018, will the Chairman review the membership and terms of reference of the group who considered the evidence in relation to the suspension of public sector employees following the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry, evaluating the evidence it received and the procedure it adopted, with a view to assessing whether it was sufficiently independent and objective and whether the previous board's decision to reinstate the suspended employees was correct?

**Senator T.A. Vallois (Chairman, States Employment Board):**

The group was established by the previous chief executive officer to advise on whether there were any concerns needing to be addressed given the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry report. As has been previously advised, a mixed team of senior professionals from the Law Officers' Department, Police, Human Resources and Social Services reviewed the cases. While the terms of reference and outcomes could be reviewed again, it is not clear why this should be done given that from an individual employee perspective the case had been closed with no case to answer. There has been no subsequent information that suggests that the case needs to be reconsidered. However, to provide comfort to the Deputy I have asked the current chief executive officer to conduct a desktop review of the approach and outcomes to provide closure on this matter.

**3.5.1 Deputy M.R. Higgins:**

I thank the Minister for passing it to the chief executive to look at again. Will she also be prepared to publish the terms of reference that were given to the body that was looking at the suspension, and, if not, why not?

**Senator T.A. Vallois:**

I am not sure whether there would be any difficulty with publishing it but I would like to check with officers and the legality around the terms of reference if the Deputy would consider that appropriate and then I can advise him appropriately and let him know whether we can publish that or not.