WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION BY DEPUTY M. TADIER OF ST. BRELADE ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 29th JANUARY 2019

Question

Further to the adoption of paragraph (a) of 'Reform Day: 28th September 1769' (P.107/2012) on 20th November 2012, that "28th September should be recognised annually by the States of Jersey as 'Reform Day' to mark the anniversary of the events in Jersey of 28th September 1769", will the Minister advise what steps, if any, will be taken to commemorate Reform Day annually in schools and whether she will ensure that this year's 250th anniversary of the Corn Riots will receive special commemoration?

Answer

There are currently no cross island plans to commemorate Reform Day in schools, nor the Corn or Bread Riots of September 1769 which precipitated the reforms.

Following the adoption of paragraph (a) of (P.107/2012) the Curriculum Council considered it, as agreed by the Minister for Education and Deputy Pitman during the debate. However, no changes were made to the curriculum in the interests of avoiding a 'piecemeal approach to curriculum' and the 'difficulty of teaching individual dates in isolation'.

The Curriculum Council did make an offer, at the time, welcoming the submission of age appropriate resources to support learning of local history but nothing has been received. This offer remains open and is broad ranging and not specific to Reform Day. A coordinated submission of resources for a range of local historic dates would be considered by the Council, and on approval, circulated to schools, supporting them in raising the importance of these anniversaries with pupils in assemblies or lessons.