

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2012 (P.123/2011): AMENDMENT

Lodged au Greffe on 19th August 2011
by Senator F. du H. Le Gresley

STATES GREFFE

PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (a) –

After the words “withdrawn from the consolidated fund in 2012” insert the words –

“except that the net revenue expenditure of the Housing Department shall be increased by £20,000 in order to provide a grant in this amount to the ‘Prison! Me! No Way!’ initiative in 2012 and the total net revenue of the Treasury and Resources Department (Provision for Central Reserves) be reduced by £20,000 for 2012.”.

SENATOR F. DU H. LE GRESLEY

REPORT

Introduction

I am sure none of us could fail to have been shocked by the scenes of mob rule, vandalism, burglary and arson which appeared on our television screens and national newspapers over the 4 days, 6th to 9th August.

Apologists for the aggressors have tried to blame the violence on the UK Coalition Government's cuts but it is clear that the causes of the anarchy that appeared on the streets of mainland cities are far more deeply rooted in society.

We cannot afford to be complacent that our island is untouchable from the symptoms that led to the social and moral breakdown behind the riots. It is against this toxic background of disrespect for authority by young people and the belief that crimes can be committed with impunity that I bring this amendment to the Draft Annual Business Plan.

Prison! Me! No Way! [PMNW]

The aim of PMNW is to raise the awareness of young people about the causes, consequences and penalties of crime. By using a non-threatening and non-lecturing style of education the hope is that young people will be dissuaded away from a life of crime and help them to grow into responsible citizens.

The charity was set up 6 years ago and uses a multi-agency approach. The main agencies involved are the police and prison services but partnerships have been formed with the Education, Sport and Culture, Home Affairs and Housing Departments.

In 2010 PMNW delivered programmes in 28 primary schools and 8 secondary schools. Community Awareness Days were also delivered in housing estate "hot spots" to showcase the community policing element of the States of Jersey Police. The aim is to position the police as "protectors" as opposed to purely law enforcers.

Funding

A new round of funding, to enable the charity to continue its valuable work for the next 3 years, is presently being negotiated with the 3 main partners. PMNW has applied for a grant of £20,000 from each Department [total £60,000] for 2012. Early indications are that the Ministers for Home Affairs and Education, Sport and Culture remain supportive but the Minister for Housing has already decided to withdraw his support and proposes to remove the grant of £15,000 from his 2012 budget as one of his CSR savings proposals.

In the year to date the charity has received £35,000 [of which £15,000 is a late payment for 2010] from the Housing Department, £20,000 from the Home Affairs Department and £10,000 from the Education, Sport and Culture Department.

PMNW employs a full time co-ordinator and a part-time office manager [7 hours per week]. The budgeted staff costs for 2012 is £56,000, which includes training and uniforms for the team. These fixed costs will be covered by the anticipated grants,

totalling £60,000, from the 3 Ministries. The remaining working capital will be invested in new programme materials whilst leaving a reserve to cover contingencies.

In response to a question on funding of PMNW, posed by Deputy G.P. Southern of St. Helier on the 5th July 2011, the Minister for Housing said –

“Deputy A.K.F. Green:

First of all I would like place on record my admiration for the work that the Prison! Me! No Way! and the team do. We have support as the Housing Department, we have supported Prison! Me! No Way! to the tune of £107,000 to date, but currently I have no plans to extend the working agreement that we have had with them because our agreement has come to an end, we do not extend it. Now to get to the point that the Deputy was asking me, there is no need for Prison! Me! No Way! to close because they have not got that £10,000, in fact they had asked us for £20,000. They have in reserve £60,000 at the current time. I have some very difficult choices to make. Prison! Me! No Way! needs to continue its good work, to target its work where it would have the most effect, there is no need for them currently to close because they do not get a grant from the Housing Department. That decision is made against things like adapting homes for disabled people. I have very tight budgets to work to. Prison! Me! No Way! is an excellent organisation and can continue to work with the £60,000 it has in its reserves at the current time.

6.11.1 Deputy G.P. Southern:

If I may, a supplementary? So the Minister is unaware of any measures to replace that missing £10,000 and he also appears to be unaware that effectively Prison! Me! No Way! is a franchise and unless the funding is in place Prison! Me! No Way! will close come next year. Is the Minister happy with the situation?

Deputy A.K.F. Green:

I do not run Prison! Me! No Way! They have £60,000 in reserve, they must target their work where they think it is appropriate.”

Note:

The figure of £107,000 quoted by the Minister for Housing should be £110,000 as it includes 6 years at £15,000 and one year at £20,000.

The payment of £15,000 for 2010 was delayed due to the change of Minister but was finally paid to PMNW in February 2011 together with the grant of £20,000. Hence the unusually high “**reserve**” figure of £60,000 commented on by the Minister.

My amendment

The purpose of this amendment is to increase the budget of the Housing Department by £20,000 for 2012 to ensure that the grant to PMNW is continued with the compensating money to be taken from the Provision for Central Reserves controlled by the Minister for Treasury and Resources.

There is no doubt that the team at PMNW have been very effective in getting their message across to primary and secondary school pupils. If the scheme manages to

deter just one young person from a life of crime there is an annual saving for the States of £57,000, which is the estimated cost to house one prisoner at HMP La Moye for a year.

Money spent by the States on Crime Prevention is money well spent. The team at PMNW have a proven track record. Giving primary school children an opportunity to “feel and smell prison conditions,” as part of the Your Choice Programme, will make them think differently about a life of crime.

The Crime and Safety Awareness Secondary School Programme, which consists of a series of interactive workshops, is delivered in partnership with officers from HMP La Moye, States of Jersey Police, Fire and Rescue Service and the Ambulance Service.

PMNW also deliver stand alone lessons in the classroom from Year 7 up to Year 13, as part of the Personal, Social, Health Education [PSHE] programme, on subjects such as internet safety, attitudes to crime, the effects and dangers of drugs and alcohol, social acceptance and the law, and of course prison life. In 2010 the co-ordinator delivered 128 individual lessons to a total of 4096 students.

PMNW also support other youth organisations for example Child Accident and Prevention and the Youth Service.

Summary

Effective crime prevention programmes will encourage young people to grow into responsible and law abiding citizens. The recent pictures of blazing buildings and thieving mobs rampaging the streets of London, Manchester and Birmingham should serve as a wake up call to our Council of Ministers, and in particular the Minister for Housing. Continued investment in PMNW, an incredibly successful crime prevention service, is essential and must not be a target for a CSR cut.

Financial and manpower implications

This amendment is cost neutral and the only manpower implication is monitoring of a service level agreement.