

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2011 (P.99/2010): FIFTH AMENDMENT (P.99/2010 Amd.(5)) – COMMENTS

**Presented to the States on 10th September 2010
by the Council of Ministers**

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The Council of Ministers opposes this amendment.

The majority of the Council would be inclined to support the amendment to Part 3 which has been lodged by Deputy J.A.N. Le Fondré of St. Lawrence (P.99/2010 Amd.(5)Amd.). The Minister for Social Security does not support the amendment and maintains the original proposal for Comprehensive Spending Review proposal SS-S4 (removal of GST bonus).

Deputy G.P. Southern of St. Helier proposes that –

- Part 1 the net revenue expenditure of the Health and Social Services Department shall be increased by £74,000 and not proceed with the Comprehensive Spending Review proposal HSS-S5 (pharmacy skill mix review and out of hours service to reduce costs of service); and
- Part 2 the net revenue expenditure of the Home Affairs Department shall be increased by £52,000 and not proceed with the Comprehensive Spending Review proposal HA-S6 (customs and immigration staff reductions); and
- Parts 3 & 4 the net revenue expenditure of the Social Security Department shall be increased by £354,000 and not proceed with the Comprehensive Spending Review proposal SS-S4 (removal of GST bonus) and SS-S7 (reduce housing adaptations budget by 50%); and
- offset by reducing net revenue expenditure of Treasury and Resources by £480,000 from Restructuring costs.

Comment

Part 1

The pharmacy service reconfiguration offers certain benefits by the introduction of a 7 day presence of a pharmacist in the hospital, albeit mornings only at weekends and on bank holidays. In addition, a provision would be made to increase the range of medicines held as stock on wards in the emergency drug cupboard.

Savings proposed by the skill mix review are as a result of an opportunity due to staff retirement and do not constitute a reduction in service. The aim of the review is to increase the number of appropriately skilled and experienced technicians and reduce the number of Pharmacists.

Part 2

The Home Affairs Department was tasked with identifying 2% savings as part of the 2011 CSR process. All Departmental expenditure was examined but the required savings could not be achieved without losing some posts.

This post was selected for the following reasons –

- The post was only created in 2008. A sound business case was made at the time but if the post was lost it would mean a return to 2008 working methods and not a major revision of service.
- The current incumbent is on a 3 year contract which expires in September 2011. The post could then be left vacant.

Part 3

This part of the amendment is subject to an amendment from Deputy Le Fondré.

Part 4

Home adaptation grants are provided to private tenants and homeowners subject to a means test and are not a statutory scheme. The reduction in budget is not designed to restrict access to the scheme, the Social Security Department will always prioritise the most vulnerable claimants, but the current budget allocation has been above actual average spend for several years and the adjustment in the budget reflects the current demand for the scheme.

The average expenditure between 2005 and 2009 inclusive was £47,000. With the exception of 2008 which included a single exceptional case, the highest annual spend in any recent year has been £45,600. There is little evidence that the additional budget is needed.

Financial implications

The amendment proposes that the financial implications are neutral with the funding increase offset by a reduction in the central provision for restructuring costs held by Treasury and Resources.

Members are referred to the Council of Ministers comment to P.99/2010 Amd. where the Council has explained in detail the implications of using this central provision for restructuring to offset funding increases.