



Scrutiny Office

Senator Ian Gorst
Chief Minister
Cyril Le Marquand House,
The Parade, St Helier
JE4 8UL

Our ref: 511/2/3/1

21 November 2017

Dear Chief Minister,

Care of Children in Jersey Review Panel

I write to you in respect of recommendation one of the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry (IJCI) to request an update on certain aspects of the Commissioner's role.

The Review Panel would appreciate the answers to the following queries:

1. Is any Primary Legislation to underpin the role of a Children's Commissioner due to be lodged, or is it still the intention for this to be agreed upon appointment of the Commissioner?
2. The Panel notes that the role of the Children's Commissioner is expected to sit inside the Community and Constitutional Affairs Department. If this is to be the case, would you confirm how their authority will retain independence when dealing with issues that may involve States Departments?
3. What will be expected of the Children's Commissioner in terms of working with the Care Commissioner? How is it envisaged that this will operate?

I would be grateful of your response by Wednesday 29 November.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy S.Y. Mézec
Chairman, Care of Children in Jersey Review Panel

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24th November 2017

Dear Chairman

Care of Children in Jersey Review Panel

Thank you for your letter of 21st November 2017 concerning arrangements for the Children's Commissioner. I have sought to answer the questions below.

1. The intention is that the office of Children's Commissioner will be established in shadow form during the first year of operation. During this period, the Commissioner will work with officers to develop a statutory framework that enables the role to fulfil its functions effectively and independently.
2. The officer support for the Children's Commissioner will be provided through the Department for Community and Constitutional Affairs. This arrangement has worked well to date and is similar to the arrangements for the Care Commission, the Charities Commissioner, the Safeguarding Partnership Board and a number of other independent arms-length bodies concerned with the criminal justice system. In each case, full functional and operational independence rests with Commissioner or equivalent, as enshrined in the relevant legislation.
3. The Care Commission and the Children's Commissioner have different functions and focus. Any collaboration between them would be generated by the separate Commissioner's themselves and their respective interests in improving children's lives.

I hope this will assist the Panel in understanding the role of the Children's Commissioner.

Yours sincerely



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Chief Minister of Jersey

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