States Greffe: Scrutiny

Senator John Le Fondré Chief Minister

By email

22nd January 2021

Dear Chief Minister

## **Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel**

## **Office Modernisation Project**

I refer to your letter to the Panel dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and request that the postponed briefing with you and relevant officers in relation to the Office Accomodation project is reorganised as soon as possible. The Panel have not had a formal update on the Office Accomodation Project since 15th October 2020. Given recent developments in relation to Ministerial Decision MD-PH-2021-0001 (31-41 Broad Street & 19-29 Commercial Street, St Helier: Lease) the Panel conclude the content of this briefing is extremely important. The Panel have also not received a copy of the written report referred to in the Ministerial Decision MD-PH-2021-0001 as requested in its letter dated 14th January 2021.

Also, in the November 2020 issue of Connect magazine an interview with Jersey Property Holdings Director Tim Daniels indicates that the new Government HQ – where it should be, what it needs, and how big it should be was being re-evaluated in light of the pandemic. The Government Plan 2021-24 subsequently alludes to the fact that a review was undertaken of the impacts of COVID-19 on the principles of the Strategic Outline Case for a new office building. The Panel notes that elements of this review have been mentioned within papers received by Scrutiny, however no full report into the impact has been forthcoming to Scrutiny. The Panel therefore requests that any reports and papers pertaining to the Office Modernisation Project from Ministerial Decision MD-PH-2021-0001 and re-evaluations in light of the pandemic are forwarded, this should include information provided by all departments including non Ministerial where possible. The Panel understands that these items may be commercially sensitive and is willing to receive them on a confidential basis.

We request that you provide us with the requested reports and papers by Friday 29th January 2021.

Yours sincerely

Senator Kristina Moore

Chair, Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel

Website: statesassembly.gov.je/scrutiny

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Letter - Chief Minister to Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel re Quarterly Hearing - 16 July 2020