



Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Quarterly Review Hearing

Witness: The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs

Tuesday, 29th April 2025

Panel:

Deputy C.D. Curtis of St. Helier Central (Chair)

Connétable M. Labey of Grouville (Vice Chair)

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée of St. Helier South

Deputy H.M. Miles of St. Brelade

Witnesses:

Deputy M.R. Le Hegarat of St. Helier North - The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs

Ms. K. Briden - Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs

Mr. R. Smith - Chief of Police

Ms. R. Small - Head of Customs and Immigration

Mr. A. Hunt - Deputy Head of Customs and Immigration

Mr. G. Hunt - Associate Chief Ambulance Officer

[13:31]

Deputy C.D. Curtis of St. Helier Central (Chair):

Welcome to this quarterly hearing of the Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel. Today is 29th April and I would like to draw everyone's attention to the following. This hearing will be filmed and streamed live. The recording and transcript will be published afterwards on the States

Assembly website. All electronic devices including mobile phones should be switch to silent. So, starting with introductions, I am Deputy Catherine Curtis, the Chair of the panel.

Connétable M. Labey of Grouville:

I am Connétable Mark Labey from the Parish of Grouville. I am Vice Chair.

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée of St. Helier South:

I am Deputy Porée and I am a panel member.

Deputy H.M. Miles of St. Brelade:

I am Deputy Helen Miles and I am a panel member.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Deputy Mary Le Hegarat, District North St. Helier, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs.

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

Kate Briden, Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs.

Associate Chief Ambulance Officer:

Gordon Hunt, Associate Chief Ambulance Officer.

Chief of Police:

Robin Smith, Chief of Police.

Head of Customs and Immigration:

Rhiannon Small, Head of Customs and Immigration.

Deputy Head of Customs and Immigration:

Andrew Hunt, Deputy Head of Customs and Immigration.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay, thank you everybody. We have got 1½ hours for this hearing. I will start by asking some quite general questions about the budget. Minister, regarding your legislative programme, please could you advise the biggest priorities for completion before the end of this term of office and whether any projects have been reprioritised in terms of importance since the start of this year?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Okay, we will kick off with the draft Police Complaints and Conduct (Jersey) Regulations. This has basically been going on for some time. There has been further considerations made in relation to it and the regulations are currently subject to the final checks and will be lodged fairly soon, hopefully, because we would like to be able to use that resource to do, obviously, some further work. Revised remand arrangements for children, that is under further consideration and we anticipate that being lodged in this quarter of 2025. Matrimonial Causes (Jersey) Law 1949 and Civil Partnerships Law 2012 amendments to introduce no fault divorce and others which help reduce conflict in the divorce process. Similar amendments will also be made to the process for the dissolution of civil partnerships and that is actually included in this 2025 legislative programme. Prejudice and Hate Crime Law to provide the hate crime equivalent legislation in Jersey to meet international norms, that is still going to be in development in 2025. That hopefully will be that person that obviously is currently doing police complaints and that is why there has been some delay to that. The Prison (Amendment No. 8) (Jersey) Law creates a system of post-custodial supervision of people leaving prison. Further consideration was required and that is still included in the 2025 legislative programme. Stalking and harassment law, obviously that is one of the V.A.W.G. (Violence Against Women and Girls) recommendations to develop that. That is still scheduled for delivery within this term of Government, as is the domestic abuse amendments under the V.A.W.G, the non-fatal strangulation, the intimate images abuse law. Then following that Criminal Procedure (Jersey) Law amendments, that is again still scheduled for this term of office and the Criminal Justice (Young Offenders) (Jersey) Law amendment 20 is also scheduled probably for either quarter 2 or quarter 3 of 2025.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

That is quite a lot of legislation, is it not?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

So the stalking and harassment one would probably be next year then, would it not? The others after that?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Well, they have all got to go to law drafting and be at completion by the end of 2025 so that they are lodged prior to when we fall into purdah. So effectively all of that legislation we want done by the time we stop in the States Assembly. That is the plan and hopefully that will come to fruition. We have had a dedicated resource in relation to law drafting from the board perspective, so hopefully

that will all be ... and obviously if for any reason anything of that falls into delay or if there is a reason why it is not going to be done then obviously we will advise the panel as such.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay, and also I asked about any projects which have been re-prioritised in terms of importance, so anything that has fallen back, for example?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I think our focus has been very much on the violence against women and girls. In relation to other pieces ... well, obviously, there are other pieces which I personally would like to be able to progress. People are doing various bits of work on it but I am not in a position where we are now able to have that done in time for the next election.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

All right, and what might that be?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Things like firearms, fireworks, those sorts of priorities, because they are still priorities to me. However, this has got to be done before those will get done.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay, right. Just about budget savings now. The previous budget proposed savings of £334,000 for Justice and Home Affairs and £172,000 for the States of Jersey Police. Please can you detail how this has progressed in 2025, where these savings have been identified?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I think I will ask Kate, if that is okay, in relation to J.H.A. (Justice and Home Affairs) and then Robin in relation to S.O.J.P. (States of Jersey Police).

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

So it was particularised for J.H.A. into 2 separate parts. There was a part for reduction in growth from 2024 Government Plan items, which has incrementally affected a little bit of investment in the ambulance service and a little bit in fire and rescue, and it reprioritised to accommodate that reduction. So that is delivered. Then the remainder is £244,000, which is role reduction. So we have reduced one role in Customs and Immigration. We have taken one senior manager post out following Rhiannon's promotion. So there is a delivered saving there. There is a remaining £86,000 in Justice and Home Affairs that is not allocated at the moment. We will save it but we have not yet identified exactly how. Then obviously Robin will want to give his ...

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Those so far have been changes to job positions, people's positions, okay.

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, so there is a number of senior managers who have a number of different portfolios that they are deployed to. So the team have changed the way that those current postholders are deployed in order to accommodate the reduction in one post.

Chief of Police:

The S.O.J.P. budget, as previously been explained to the panel and indeed to others, is just over £13 million, around about 92 per cent of that is people. So to find necessary savings, the wriggle room is in anything other than pay. There is no savings to be made in non-pay, particularly against some of the inflationary costs that the Island has had over the last few years. So that is a very long answer to say it is people, it is headcount. So we are achieving it and we have already achieved it by not recruiting to certain posts and then finding efficiencies within that.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Would those posts be front line? Would they be counted as front line?

Chief of Police:

They are police staff posts.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Minister, you previously suggested that among the options available savings could be made through a reduction in ... well, I have already asked that question. I was going to ask about reduction in senior roles but this is exactly what you have just been saying. Now on to some particular projects. The panel notes that several ongoing capital projects have received funding from previous Government Plans. Could you please provide an update on the following projects, which I think have been going on for some time, all of them. The first one is Dewberry House.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, the result of the planning appeal heard in February has been communicated to the project team. The appeal was actually dismissed and the project can therefore now proceed. The design team will now work on any necessary amendments and revert to an updated target programme with scheduling as soon as they possibly can. Obviously, because of the delays in that process, that may mean that there may be a shortfall in funding, in which case we will obviously have to look to see how that will be funded. Obviously we do not know at this current stage what that will mean.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

I remember in 2022 there were plans just about ready for Dewberry House. It has been a long time.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, what happened was that planning permission was passed and then there was an appeal made by a third party. So, of course, with the planning process, even if planning give permission, if people have gone to the public meetings in relation to planning, if somebody wants to appeal about that, if they are in a particularly close location to it, then they can make a third party appeal. Of course, that then has to go to a planning appeal. So nothing can be done until that planning appeal is resolved and that was not until February of this year. Planning processes, as you know, can take a significant period of time, unfortunately. So that is what we have had to wait for.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay. The next one was the new firearms range.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, that progress is continuing and is in line with its targets. It was obviously approved and the structural works, I gather, are 80 per cent completed. It hopefully should be completed by the end of this year.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay. Then I have prison improvement works.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

You are probably more up to speed on it than me.

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

So the sort of final phase of this tranche is underway, which is the demolition of the old gatehouse and the making good of that area. It involves moving the fence line and then temporarily, at least, creating some more parking at the front of the site. The next phases were delayed in the long-term capital plan in the budget. So we are having a relook at what the next priorities are. Obviously we will take into account the inspection outcomes and I am conscious you will have questions about that later. So we are just having another look at the Strategic Plan, essentially, for what the next phase of investment will be and how we can do that, conscious of the outcomes of the expansion.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

But the first bit you mentioned about the old gatehouse and some more parking, that is definitely happening.

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, it is well underway, yes.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay. Then the last one I have mentioned here is the Army and Sea Cadet Headquarters.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, we continue to review locations and designs against Army and Sea Cadets requirements that will enable a new shared headquarters that will complete a States Assembly commitment, which was in 2019. This is a key prerequisite to the development of the Rouge Bouillon site, obviously, as they currently reside at this location. In terms of options, J.H.A. are also engaging with Education colleagues to look at the viability of sharing some facilities with a secondary school. But obviously that is all still an ongoing progress. Is there anything further in the last week on that? No.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Was that not going to be down at La Folie at one point?

[13:45]

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

That was a very, very long time ago at La Folie. Unfortunately, I think the site that was discussed at La Folie was taken off the table because it was wanted for something else. That must be in excess of 8-odd years ago from my recollections that La Folie was ...

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

It came up again since then. Two years ago.

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, so there has been 2 different potential locations down at the harbour. We were looking more recently at La Folie. There had previously been one at Les Galots, which is slightly further down, which had been worked up and was not capable of achieving planning permission. La Folie, by which we actually mean the industrial sheds at the back of La Follie, not the actual inn, was looked at from a feasibility point of view for us, but it is Ports of Jersey land and they are working on alternative uses for that site. So while we have designs for a Sea Cadet H.Q. (headquarters) there, we are not currently pursuing that option.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay, because they have other plans for it.

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay, thanks for that. I have got a question still about this, which is, do you have specific measures in place to monitor how these projects are progressing?

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, so they are overseen through the Corporate Portfolio Management Office in the Government of Jersey. We do monthly reporting on them. The accountable officer will have a structure in place of a senior responsible officer. The first 2 you have asked about actually are under Robin and then the Army and Sea Cadets and Prison are under me, of course. So I have a senior responsible officer for each of the projects and it is their responsibility to make sure they are on track, that they are reporting effectively and that they are delivering. There is, of course, always constraints and interdependencies that we face, for example, as the Minister's given the example of the planning appeal in relation to Dewberry House, where they are not always within our control but it is incumbent on the accountable officer and the senior responsible officer of the project to make sure that they are delivering within quality, cost and time.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Thanks. I just have a slightly different question now. In light of several security incidents recently covering various responsibilities of your department, what lessons have been learned in terms of risk management, procedures and responses? We had something up at the airport not long ago, for example. So, yes, have there been learnings following that?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

In relation to, obviously, any incident, regardless of what it is, as a result of any of those incidents, there will be what we would call a hot debrief and then thereafter a follow-up debrief in relation to learnings from those incidents. As a result of that, there will be potentially changes to the plans maybe. Robin could probably give a bit more of an insight, I would think, in relation to the airport incident but I think that is it in a nutshell.

Chief of Police:

Thank you, Minister. The airport incident, again, was a hoax email, which was explained to Islanders. Of course, primacy for the evacuation of the airport is entirely the Ports of Jersey. It is the Por

ts of Jersey's responsibility to determine whether or not they will evacuate based on the information. It is for them to do a threat and risk assessment based on the information provided to them. It was their decision to evacuate, which I support. My understanding is that the evacuation was done very well but, like every incident, there is always learning. The Minister is right, there has already been a hot debrief, not just with the police service but with senior people within Ports of Jersey and the airport and other agencies. Then there is a longer debrief that may have already happened by now - I am not sure, I would have to check my dates - which the police are participating in so that we can properly support Ports of Jersey, in particular the airport, in their decision-making and risk assessments into the future. So the important thing is that there is always learning. That is not necessarily to say that things went wrong. In fact, I think a lot of things went right.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Thank you. Then also there was an incident at a school around that time. So that would come under different ...

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, obviously, again, that is an educational thing. So that would come under Education. They would have made the decisions based on what they had in front of them. Obviously, as Robin said, Ports of Jersey are obviously responsible for the airport. The Education Department would have made their decisions on how they were going to react to those particular circumstances and again there would have been a debrief in relation to how that was dealt with and whether there was any learning and whether there is anything that needs to be done differently in the future.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

So when these things happen there is not like an overall team that is trying to monitor things going on?

Chief of Police:

I can help with that. There is not a team that is dedicated necessarily. We do have an emergency planning team, a very experienced emergency planning team, and they are involved in how we will assess in the future. The police service will, of course, go to U.K. (United Kingdom) colleagues to help with understanding the threat and risk. On these occasions, it was emails and those emails were sent to a number of schools, as was explained to Islanders. Then how do we assess those if we have those in the future? That is where the learning really comes from. The Minister is absolutely right, it is down to the individual headteachers to determine whether or not they wish to evacuate.

Of course, we will support them in that decision-making. I think what the recent incident has done ... and it is important to state that the 2 incidents are not related. It is fairly common to receive emails in this way from anywhere in the world that is seeking to disrupt, et cetera. They are not connected. But, again, we have met with our colleagues in Education to talk about how we deal with those again into the future.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay, thanks. You mentioned the emergency planning team but we also have a new resilience policy being worked on, do we not? I wondered about the progress of that.

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

As we have discussed before, the development of that into a new law was not prioritised for delivery before the election. That was just a sensible position of realism in terms of the amount of work that needs to be done and the rest of the work that was in the pipeline. But we are actively working on it. Officers, the emergency planning team and the Cabinet Office policy team are working on what a new resilience law would look like. While we are doing that, we are continuing to strengthen the resilience arrangements for the Island generally, really developing the Jersey Resilience Forum Executive and Delivery Group, which is the widest construct that meets every 4 months. It is now in a much better cycle of feeding into the Emergencies Council and seeking to act in a more resilience thinking way. That is showing real benefits and dividends. We have got, of course, extra resource in the emergency planning team at the moment, which means we have got an officer each with a portfolio for risk, plans and training, learning and exercising. We are really seeing the benefits of that because it means that the work flows through a logical cycle and where we do have learning from incidents we are much better able to embed it and make it actual action that is demonstrable in the resilience community and that everyone understands the direction of travel, what the lessons learned were and how we would act differently in the future. I am much more confident in that function now than I was, which feeds into the new resilience approach in due course into a new law.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay. I was actually going to ask about the Jersey Resilience Forum as well and how the responsibilities of Justice and Home Affairs in relation to the forum works in response to these incidents, but when you described the debriefs and so on, all this work takes part in the resilience forum as well then?

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

So the resilience forum effectively sits as a planning and preparedness forum. The executive is a small group, currently chaired by the Chief Executive, of the Government chairs in the public service. It has each of the 3 emergency services chiefs, me, Director of Public Health, Director of Ports and

the Director of the Jersey Cyber Security Centre on it. Then the delivery group is much, much wider. It is all the critical national infrastructure partners, utility partners, et cetera. The emphasis is on planning and preparedness but it then means when there is an incident it is those people that constitute strategic co-ordination groups and to start with initial review groups at the start of the process working up towards an S.C.G. (strategic co-ordination group) and the level of planning and preparedness that we are doing and the familiarity with individuals and organisations and their roles is really showing effect when we then have an incident and we have to pull together to deal with the incident. So it is a really good structure now and I am much more confident in it. There is still improvement to make but we are now working in a much more resilient and effective way, which is good.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Yes, thank you.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Minister, we have several questions relating to La Moye Prison, in particular the Independent Prison Monitoring Board annual report. The panel would like to know what your key take aways from the report are in your capacity as Minister for Justice and Home Affairs?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, as you know the report was published in February, that is the inspection. Yes, obviously it is an independent panel and retaining the members has, you know, some quite challenging parts to it from the point of view of the roles because it is actually quite challenging and people do come and go, but we have got a very good board of members. Their report says the residential wings are okay. I think one of their biggest concerns was the fact that ... bear with me for a second. In relation to some of the elements of the prisoners and the sort of group of individuals that were inside of the prison, as an example, they identified that we needed to do probably a little bit more awareness in relation to staff for prisoners with neurodivergent needs. Obviously that is recognised by us and that will be work ongoing that we need to progress. I think the other element that is of concern is the fact that we have ... because of the capacity of the prison and some of the elements of it, sometimes we have people that end up on certain wings and they are potentially there for longer than the Prison Board would like, as would we. So we do need to do more work in relation to being able to encourage people maybe to go back onto a wing, because we do have step-up facilities to come off the sort of isolation wing, but we do need to do some more work to get people who have ended up on an isolation wing to actually get them off that isolation wing, but then to move them on again. Sometimes that can be quite challenging because obviously facilities are not always great. The other side of it, of course, is the work opportunities as well. So there is lots of work that needs to be done in relation to that. But I think, from my perspective, that is one of the things that I really would

like to see improved in the next 12 months, that ability for us to be able to not have people in isolation for quite so long.

The Connétable of Grouville:

I had some questions about that actually so I might change those as a result of your answer. So urgent actions you would say would be the changing of the isolation wing?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, I think it involves a lot of care and thought because I think sometimes people will end up on an isolation wing but sometimes they actually have apprehension to go back on to a normal wing. That can obviously inflate that so we need to work more closely with that. Also I think, as well, in relation to the opportunities for work and ensuring that they have as much time outside of their cell as others and what other opportunities there are, because obviously all of those dynamics make a difference and I think that is where I would like to see a lot more work done on what we can do. The prison are obviously working towards that as well.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Is there a timescale for those changes, Minister?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Some of it is quite challenging from the point of view of we do need to have better facilities certainly in relation to the educational side of it and obviously more money will need to come for investment for the prison because, as I said, we are going to need to obviously do the educational side of it and we have knocked down buildings when the reason for knocking them down was to actually make better facilities. That will be something that obviously I will need to discuss with colleagues this year and next, and a new Government will obviously need to look at this as well, because without a doubt in my mind we will need some investment in the prison.

The Connétable of Grouville:

It would be great if you could keep the panel informed about those.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, absolutely.

The Connétable of Grouville:

I am going to move on to the subject of the body scanner, if I may. Can you provide us with an update on funding solutions for a body scanner for the La Moye Prison?

[14:00]

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

This is picked up in the inspection report, of course. I think we just had it when we last met you. We are looking at feasibility around a body scanner. It is around £100,000. It is not currently in our plan. It could be covered in a future minor capital plan. So, Justice and Home Affairs and S.O.J.P. get a rolling vote of money from Treasury to cover quite significant minor capital needs each year. We are just looking at the right product and whether it is feasible for delivery within the money in future years. In the meantime, of course, the prison are managing, scanning and searching requirements in a humane and suitable way. It would just add a tool to their regime if they had one.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Sure. I was just going to ask about the mitigation measures that you put in place in the intervening time between now and the introduction?

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, it is sensible and appropriate searching at reception and on entry to the prison instead.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Okay, thank you. Minister, in response to fears that the prison was impacted by the U.K.'s overcrowding crisis, with U.K. prisoners making up over 40 per cent - as is reported - of those residents in La Moye, can you confirm whether transfers have been recommenced to U.K. prisons?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, it has been recommenced. However, it is not as much as we would like, because we are still limited to only one or 2 at a time. So we still do have those challenges. Until we are able to move it forward ... of course, we have got quite a lot of prisoners waiting to go. That can be quite a challenge as well, because obviously they are requesting to go and we would like to be able to facilitate that but we can only facilitate it as quick as we can get places, because, of course, it is not only ourselves but it is also Guernsey and the Isle of Man as well. We are trying to work as a team with the other Crown Dependencies.

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs.

Yes, that is the key thing really. It was the Crown Dependencies working together that cracked being able to negotiate and navigate a pathway with the English and Welsh Prison Service, but it does mean that we sort of have only one in every 3 transfers, but we will get there slowly and it is beginning to have an effect.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Do you think the agreement with the U.K. authorities will remain in place and not be subject to this sort of issue in the future?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Quite frankly, I think it would be great if it can actually take place but I think the thing is, is that you know at any stage where it is felt that the U.K. are not in a position to be able to assist or take them then we could end up back in the same position. Of course, we are not in a holding position where we can make those choices. All we can do is ensure that we continue to push at that door in order that those transfers can happen with the other Crown Dependencies. We saw that potentially in the U.K. they were having to have early releases and all of those other things and so I think the thing is that we will continue to push at the door and get as many through as we can but, of course, we are also in a position that we could end up ... if we, say, tomorrow had 5 go, we could end up in a process where in 2 weeks, 3 weeks' time we have got another 5 in. So I think it is always going to be a challenge for us now that we have ended up in a position where we have not been able to send people fairly swiftly. I think there is a catch-up game, is there not? So I could not say with confidence that we are going to be in a good position long-term but we can only just keep going and keep trying to get those individuals who wish to be ... but not only that, it is not only transfers to the U.K., we actually also facilitate transfers to other places as well and some of those actually have happened as well. I think that is an important thing, if somebody actually wants to go back and serve their sentence ... you know, as long as those policies and processes are in place.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Thank you for your honesty, Minister. The next question was going to be relating to the segregation units but I think we have already dealt with that, so I will move on. The report recognised the need for increased support to accommodate neurodivergent prisoners. We have already mentioned this. Can you provide details of actions or potential new policies put in place, if any, to address these concerns?

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, so we are treating that as part of the wider ... well, it is multifaceted really, the wider healthcare approach, which, as you know, has been materially improved in the prison in partnership with Health and Care Jersey, and also part of the approach to ... it is called purposeful activity in the inspection report, in making sure that there is good awareness of neurodivergent needs in the offer which, as we know from the inspection report, needs material improvement. We have action plans in place for that. I need to check the detail with them, but the team are also planning on working closely with one of the members of the I.P.M.B. (Independent Prison Monitoring Board) who has a special interest in this - and others, of course - to ensure that where they have got personal officers for each

prisoner, those personal officers are properly trained in recognising and supporting neurodivergence. So there are quite a number of different actions underway, some of them are only really in their infancy and need quite a lot more development. It has been picked up by both the I.P.M.B. and the Prison Inspectorate and there is a good programme of work for us to undertake there.

The Connétable of Grouville:

We have identified one agency, are there any other agencies that you have considered to bring alongside with regards these neuro-inclusive strategies and how they could be implemented in your department?

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

I would need to check actually. They have talked us through the action plan for the inspection but I am not sure what partners we are considering. There are obvious ones in the Island, of course, but I am not sure what partners we are potentially considering working with. We can check and find out.

The Connétable of Grouville:

We will get an update on that, I am sure.

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes. We are due to brief you in a private briefing on the action plan from the inspection in a few weeks' time as well, so we will make sure that we have got the information for then.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Thank you very much. The report also cites, and I quote: "Observed instances where it is a challenge for the prison to effectively manage complex prisoners in custody, we have escalated our observations and concerns in this regard to the J.H.A. Minister and the J.H.A. Chief Officer." Minister, what action have you taken or are planning to take in response to those concerns?

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs.

Yes, so obviously without talking about specific cases we know what the I.P.M.B. are referring to. The Minister and I are obviously concerned about any case where it seems like a really difficult issue to ensure that we are providing the right care, support and environment for any particular prisoner. There was a specific case which we just discussed yesterday, as I have alluded to, where the Minister has asked for a bit of a case review in a number of weeks' time, which the I.P.M.B. will be involved in because we have all got the same concern. The prison team, the healthcare support team and the mental health team are reviewing options, for example - keeping it anonymous - for that prisoner and then the Minister will be briefed on that in due course. So there is occasions where

the Minister does take a case-by-case interest in particular situations where generally the I.P.M.B. has flagged it to me and the Minister and we share the concern, as does of course the Acting Prison Governor. So we are actively involved in a number of the most concerning cases.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Thank you very much.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, that covers it, I think. We will meet with them in the next couple of weeks.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Yes, we will have that briefing. It was noted that the body-worn cameras were due to be introduced in the second quarter of this year 2025. Has this technology been introduced already and, if not, is it due to begin within the indicated timeframe?

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

I would need to check exactly where we are on the deployment of them. I think we have got them but I am not sure we have deployed them yet. But let us check.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Thank you very much. Another question on the prison. Minister, can you provide any update on the recruitment of a permanent prison governor at this time?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I can. Obviously, the deadline is next Monday, 5th May, and we are being supported by GatenbySanderson. There has been a good response so far in relation to the search phase, so we are confident of being able to make a strong appointment. The interview process will include a familiarisation day, including a tour of the prison, stakeholder panel, and they will be meeting both myself and the Chief Officer. Those will take place on 5th and 6th June, potentially, and then hopefully we will be able to appoint a candidate thereafter.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Thank you, Minister. Finally on the prison. Further to your letter of 13th March, could you provide the panel with more information on the proposed pathways to reduce re-offending and what do you see as the most important priorities in the improvement in this area?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I will kick off with this and then I will ask Kate to just follow up. I think some of the priorities have to be in relation to their pathways, their ability to rehabilitate within the prison, as in getting the necessary education and qualifications, so that when they actually are ready to leave the prison, that they actually have those extra qualifications. But also, as well, we need to ensure that accommodation is actually looked at to ensure that all the necessary things are done. I think also there needs to be probably some closer links to other services for when they leave the prison, to make sure that for those prisoners that have certain medical conditions that have been looked after within the prison, particularly if they have been in there for a considerable period of time, we need to ensure that those pathways are fully aligned so that when they come out they do not fall through the gaps. Those are off the top of my head, I think.

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs.

Yes, that is the key thing.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

The big thing for me has to be education, because I think we all talk about lifelong learning and that should apply to people that are actually in the prison as well. Even more so for those that are in there for a long term, because they need to have a way of coming out of prison, being able to go back into society and being able to provide for themselves and families, et cetera.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Indeed. Thank you.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

You mentioned before about the post-custodial supervision as well coming in, the new legislation, so that is going to make a difference, is it?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes.

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée:

Minister, going back to your letter from 13th March which indicated that no accessibility audits had been undertaken in respect of the C.A.E.S.A.R. (Customs and Excise Administration of Revenue) system, are you presently satisfied that the platform is sufficiently user-friendly? If so, have you consulted with any stakeholders to gauge feedback over this situation?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I am going to ask, if you do not mind, my experts on my right-hand side.

Head of Customs and Immigration:

Thank you, Deputy Porée. While we have not undertaken any specific accessibility audits on C.A.E.S.A.R., what we have done over the last 2 years is we have worked with local market research companies. They go out to the population of Jersey, get them to test, we then take the feedback away from that. So without any specific ... what we continuously do with C.A.E.S.A.R. is look at ways we can enhance C.A.E.S.A.R., ways we can make it better for the users of Jersey. We need to be mindful that C.A.E.S.A.R. is one system, it deals with large businesses, small businesses, individuals. We need to ensure any tweaks we make do not then have unintended consequences for any of the other users. But it is an iterative system and our focus and our strategy is very much on development to ease the burden of trade.

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée:

Okay, so it is ongoing. Thank you. Maybe for the Minister this time, you have stated that work towards a robust single trade window was ongoing, can you provide the panel with any updates in this particular respect?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I think again, if you do not mind, I will ask Rhiannon.

Head of Customs and Immigration:

So a single trade window, obviously, is a global concept. Again, it is to ease the burden for trade, globally, for everybody. Working towards a single trade window now is a key component of our free trade agreements. It is something we have to do as a jurisdiction. C.A.E.S.A.R. is our single trade window as a jurisdiction. That is the one-stop shop for traders, for importers and exporters. Hence, how I have already spoken about the development we are continuously doing the C.A.E.S.A.R., working with our software developers. We also work very closely with our local stakeholders, specifically Revenue Jersey and the Environment Department around the movement of goods. We have no timeframe for single trade window. Effectively, C.A.E.S.A.R. is our single trade window. It is up and running as a single trade window now. We just need to focus on the development of it. The U.K. have currently paused their funding for their single trade window but we are continuing with development of C.A.E.S.A.R.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Can I just dig a bit more around the C.A.E.S.A.R. system? Is there any strategic project to replace it with something more user-friendly? Is there any money allocated to it or is it just: "We see something wrong and we put it right"?

[14:15]

Head of Customs and Immigration:

So it is iterative, so when we see something wrong, we do put it right. As for a strategy, we went out in 2022 to do market research on whether we could replace C.A.E.S.A.R. with any other systems. We are satisfied that we cannot at the moment, so we are continuing with C.A.E.S.A.R.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

So C.A.E.S.A.R. is maintained by a local company?

Head of Customs and Immigration:

Yes, so the software developers are a local company. We work very closely with them. Again, as I have said, it is iterative in nature, continuous development.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

What is the relationship between Modernisation and Digital and Customs and Immigration when it comes to replacements and development and the like?

Head of Customs and Immigration:

Obviously, a freight handling system is a big system to have. There is a lot of engagement needed, both locally within Government with M. and D. (Modernisation and Digital) and Digital Services, and also a software development company, so we meet regularly. We are working towards what strategy we can put in place for C.A.E.S.A.R. going forward with Digital Services, with J.C.I.S. (Jersey Customs and Immigration Service) and with the software developers around the table.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Okay, and what timescale is attached to that?

Head of Customs and Immigration:

At the moment, the focus for us on strategy of C.A.E.S.A.R. is development to making the C.A.E.S.A.R. we have as user-friendly as possible. So that is our focus on strategy for the next year.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

It is pretty un-user-friendly if you are an individual importer.

Head of Customs and Immigration:

Yes, so as I have said, I think what we need to be mindful of is because it is also used for big businesses, small businesses and individuals, we need to make sure that that one-stop shop is suitable for everybody who uses it. Again, as I said to Deputy Porée, we have used the market research companies, we will continue to do that, we will continue to go out to the public of Jersey, we will ask them for their feedback, we will listen to their feedback, we will work on developing it as best we can; obviously, mindful of budget constraints.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

In terms of disability discrimination stuff, you have not had an accessibility audit on it. If you are visually impaired, if you have a hearing impairment, it is practically impossible to access C.A.E.S.A.R.; you would have to get somebody else to do that. How high up the importance level is accessibility to C.A.E.S.A.R. for you?

Head of Customs and Immigration:

It is very important. The market research company we have used locally did go out to everybody in Jersey as best they can to try and get the feedback and the testers in. It is something I am keen to continue to do, not just ad hoc but maybe annually or biannually, in which case we will certainly look at accessibility and make sure the market research companies we are using locally will consider a specific disability access or accessibility audits in the future.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Okay, thank you.

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée:

Thank you for the update. With regards to the Electronic Travel Authorisation system, can you please tell us when it is likely to be introduced in Jersey? And if so, what measures have been taken to ensure a smooth transition period?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

The Electronic Travel Authorisation forms part of the Future Border and Immigration System, a programme which is delivering on the U.K. Government's strategy for legal migration and border control. At the moment, we are looking at potentially the end of this year - I think that that is correct - so it will be the latter part of 2025 when we will be looking for that to be coming in.

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée:

Thank you for that. Minister, has the Government taken any further action to protect the rights of those arriving in Jersey on temporary work permits? If so, are there plans to do so?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Sorry, on what part are you asking me?

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée:

Okay. We are talking about immigration, border control; I am just touching on the permit workers. My question to you is if any further action has been taken to protect the rights of those arriving in the Island on temporary work permits and, if not, why not? I suppose if I was to give you a bit more of an indication, to focus on the Work Permit Policy review that has taken place and the recommendations put towards it.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I will ask my colleague on the right shortly as well, but I think we have updated all of our policies and procedures as a result of the work permit review. We continue to look at those and continue to work with and update them. I do not know whether you have got anything that you want to add to that, really?

Deputy Head of Customs and Immigration:

No, I think you are absolutely right. All the recommendations that we agreed to undertake as part of the Scrutiny Panel review have been completed. Updated guidance has been published. Only recently, the Work Permit Policy has been reviewed. We are obviously aware that there is a much larger number of work permit holders now than there has been historically, because of Brexit. We are always looking to improve not only our processes but making sure that any information that we receive or any concerns that we receive are acted upon promptly and appropriately in conjunction with other Government departments, to ensure the ongoing welfare of any work permit holder in Jersey.

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée:

Thank you. Is it fair for me to say that since the response to the recommendations of the review of the work permit - after the recommendations - there have been no other thoughts of how to improve? I am just trying to gauge.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

There have been some significant improvements from the point of view that people are now able to have more than one position. Also, a lot of work has been done in relation to where people are on a permit that allows them to bring partners and dependants. The thresholds of their salaries are looked at closely to ensure that when people are bringing dependants to the Island, they are earning sufficient money to be able to afford to live on the Island. Because, as we all know, there will be rent and social security and tax. What we need to ensure is that if people bring dependants, they

are able to have a good life in Jersey and be able to have the necessities, as opposed to, as we have seen in recent times, where people might end up having to use food banks. It would be wrong of us to have work permit holders and say: "Yes, come to Jersey," when in actual fact, looking at what they are being paid and what their outlays are, realistically they cannot live here. We have put that in place and I think you might be able to give a better idea of the component as to how you assess that.

Deputy Head of Customs and Immigration:

Yes. In terms of the salary thresholds and income, we look at the income support levels quarterly so we ensure that the salary thresholds are such that a worker and any dependants have sufficient money left over after their food and accommodation to meet their demands. The Work Permit Policy is designed to be flexible; the economy in Jersey is evolving; the needs of employers in Jersey are evolving all the time. It is not as if the policy is written in stone and will never change. It is constantly changing and evolving in response, as I said, to the economy, but also to any other issues that may arise. We work very hard to ensure that that is the case.

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée:

Thank you so much. I was more focused on what is being done, if anything further, in terms of protecting the workers, rather than guidelines. But maybe I can just follow up with another question. Looking further into actions to protect migrant workers, such as how they access the system and how they use the system in Jersey. This one is particular to yourself, Minister. What is your opinion about the process where work permit holders have been to an Employment Tribunal with their employers? Have you gauged the situation? I am trying - sorry to repeat myself - to look at how the Island is responding to the protection of migrant workers. In terms of the Employment Tribunal settings, have you been aware of any issues in that case? Or have you got any opinion regarding that?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

No tribunals have been brought to my attention. From the perspective of people coming into Jersey on visas, I think it is essential that the employer takes responsibility for the welfare and potentially - depending on the industry - providers of the accommodation, et cetera. If there are any issues highlighted and it goes to a tribunal, then I think the results of those tribunals may be of value to those being fed back into either ... well, probably Social Security, as well as potentially to ourselves. Because of course, from our perspective, it is very important that you have got all of the data on the systems, but it is also very important that ... the visa is issued on the basis that the employer wants an employee, so therefore it is all agencies plus the actual employers who are responsible for the welfare of the employees. It is across the piece, in my view. We issue the work permits on the request of an employer, so therefore we need to ensure that they are abiding by those rules as well

- and obviously the rules do say that - but also that the employers are actually abiding by those rules, because if you have got an employer who is bringing people into the Island and they are treating them unfairly, then that needs to be highlighted in order that, as a department, Immigration could withhold somebody being able to get a visa in the future for somebody if they do not treat their staff right. It is a generic thing that has to happen with everybody. I think the responsibility lies with all of them - Social Security, the Minister for the Environment, hospitality - all of those Ministerial positions as well as, obviously, the responsibility for Justice and Home Affairs because they are the ones that actually issue the visa. But I think all of those other Ministers alongside the employers have to ensure the welfare of people coming into the Island as a whole.

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée:

Thank you, Minister; I think that is a very honest answer. I was more pointing at the mechanisms of the Employment Tribunal; my understanding with your answer is that possibly you have not been that involved with it, which is a fair answer, so thank you for that.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I have not, no.

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée:

My next question is regarding the report of the Work Permit Holder Welfare Review Panel again, where there was a recommendation rejected to set out the enforcement mechanism put in place to ensure that work permit holders are suitably accommodated. Given the potential health and safety risks associated with substandard accommodation, would you consider engaging with the Minister for the Environment to ensure that these risks are properly mitigated?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

The answer to that is yes, but what I would highlight is that some of the legislation that will be coming forward in relation to accommodation overall will be inclusive of that accommodation as well - is my understanding.

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée:

Have you got a timeframe for that?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I do not have a timeframe for it, no. But what is worth mentioning is that I will be meeting other agencies in relation to potential fire safety regulations that will be coming forward. I have requested, in relation to all of those regulations, that we liaise with all those that have accommodation; so that would be landlords, agricultural industries, hospitality, potentially people who let out in relation to

Airbnbs. The thing is that across the piece we will be introducing legislation in which we need to make sure that everybody is aware of some of the potential obligations.

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée:

Thank you. What expectations would you have for investigations, including potential criminal investigations, to be undertaken when accommodation standards and other health and safety issues led to negative welfare outcomes for incoming migrant workers or, in tragic consequences, fatal accidents?

[14:30]

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

If we put in place the necessary checks and balances in relation to what I have just said, so that there is an assessment of the accommodation in relation to suitability alongside the health and safety and fire regulations, and all of those regulations, if those things are all put in place, then we should not end up in one of those situations. If you do end up in one of those situations, then obviously it would be a matter for whichever department it sits under. Effectively, if there was an incident, it would have to be investigated by whichever department that fell under, really. It would not necessarily be, for example, police, because it is not going to necessarily be that. It might be a health and safety matter. It might be an environmental matter. It might be under fire service. I cannot answer on a specific question; the answer is that all of those things need to be put into place to ensure that this does not happen. If it does, then obviously it would have to be investigated as to what had happened and then, subsequent to that investigation, obviously that would be looked at again.

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée:

Are you optimistic that all these things will come together at some point ...

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

We always have to try and be optimistic that we will end up in a situation as positive as it ever can be. Unfortunately, reality tells me that you can endeavour to do the best that you can, but you cannot always prevent everything. From my perspective, I would want to do the best that you can, but you cannot always prevent everything.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay, thank you. I just have to say, we have just under half an hour left, so we are going to have to keep the questions and answers a little bit shorter to try and get through a few more.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Okay, I will be very quick with mine. I have just got some questions about the J.M.A.P.P.A. (Jersey Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) report for 2024. One of the key points for us is that the number of registered sex offenders in Jersey has risen from 246 to 277. Only 6 offenders deregistered compared to 10 the year before. The question is just about whether you are happy with the processes that are currently in place for registering, and particularly deregistering, sex offenders and whether you have got any potential concerns about privacy issues and the like.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I think the system has changed to where now it is in a closed court as opposed to an open court; I think that was potentially why people were not deregistering. It has been a discussion that we have had in relation to this matter and we are going to look at potentially doing some further work to see whether or not we could do something similar to the U.K. But we need to have a look to see whether that is feasible or not and what exactly that means.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Would you consider, then, the automatic deregistration of sex offenders?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

From my perspective, I think that that would be the right thing to do. That is my view. But obviously I need to see whether or not ... how that will all work. But I think the whole system, that is what should happen.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Is that something that you are likely to be able to bring before the end of your term?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Probably not, but it is something that I have raised. I would like to see that, because I think that is the right thing to do.

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

It could potentially be prepared ready for early introduction in the next term.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Okay, thank you. The other thing that the report references is sexual offences in other jurisdictions as a factor in the changes; so people have been coming from the United Kingdom to live in Jersey. We were just wondering if you can confirm how many sex offenders moved to Jersey in 2024.

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

I do not know, we would have to check.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I do not know that.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

You would have to check. Okay. Have you got any concerns that those individuals - so not the Jersey offenders - are contributing to the workload, if you like, of the Offender Management Unit?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Sorry, say that again.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

We have got a number of sex offenders who have been convicted in other jurisdictions that have moved to Jersey and therefore require supervision from the Offender Management Unit. Is there a concern that the Offender Management Unit is becoming blocked up supervising non-Jersey sex offenders?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

That is not something that has been brought to my attention. However, that is something we probably do need to look at. We would obviously have to look at the numbers and to see whether that has got a significant impact on that or not.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

How does it work permission-wise if a sex offender wants to move to Jersey? Does somebody have to give them permission, in Jersey, to move?

Chief of Police:

That, I am not aware of.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Or can anybody just ...

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

We would need to check.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes. I do not know that, actually.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Can you just tell us what policies are already in place for the post-custodial supervision of sex offenders? So those who have been released from custody.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

That, I do not know.

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

No, I am afraid I do not either. We are lacking the operational detail behind the report, so perhaps we can write to you afterwards.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Okay, all right then. Yes. The question, again, maybe put it into writing, but we want to know whether there is sufficient communication between the prison and the police in the instances of early or temporary release of sex offenders. The last one as well - you might be able to answer it now - have any concerns been highlighted through the Victim Notification Scheme?

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

I do not recall any - I do not know if Robin does - but let us look at it and we will write to you.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

You will put that into writing.

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Okay, thank you very much.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Thanks, Helen. We really would appreciate getting those answers in writing, because it seems an important matter.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, of course.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

I have some questions now about the Ambulance Service. With plans for new ambulance facilities on hold until 2028, are you satisfied that interim improvement measures in the current facilities are sufficient for operational needs and have identified all potential risks of the old building?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I think the needs of the building are sufficient at the moment, because there has been some work done. That is my understanding. I do not know whether Gordon has got anything further than that.

Associate Chief Ambulance Officer:

We have had significant investment works, which are being carried out and completed currently on the site, and this is allowing us to bring an older building back up to the standards that we need for modern day working with an ambulance service. Current works are improving both office-based areas for the growth staff that we have seen and also some of the operational space for the operational staff to improve welfare, facilities and various other pieces. As a provision for the next few years, it is certainly going to be something that will be suitable.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

At the moment, it has been areas for staff to relax in or things like that?

Associate Chief Ambulance Officer:

Agreed, yes. The plan did involve updates to all of the staff welfare and break areas, as well as the provision of specific welfare areas to support post-incident debrief sessions and that opportunity for staff to get away from the operational provision, as a recovery piece post-incident.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

That is good. Minister, can you provide the panel with any new updates regarding the move of ambulance services from Justice and Home Affairs to the Health Department?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, it is moving forward and we believe that it will be the beginning of June.

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

1st July.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Sorry, 1st July.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay, and how will you ensure that there will be no disruption to services during this transition?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Bearing in mind that the only difference will be that the management of the head of the ambulance service will be coming under the head of Health, as opposed to coming under Kate. So, the change in the actual management of the ambulance service, if you like, will still fall under the same person; it is just that that person will have a different person to be accountable to.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

That higher management process, that is all going to be a smooth transition, all worked on and everything?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes.

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, it should be; so, it is a short consultation with the Chief Ambulance Officer on changing his line management. But we have also got a staff engagement exercise just launched today for ambulance staff and also Health and Care Jersey staff to raise any questions or concerns and then have a forum with me and the Chief Officer for Health and Care Jersey later on in May, for us to discuss and explain our answers to those concerns. There is a project board on which Tom and I both sit and jointly chair, essentially, and a project group which is wider and includes for each department: the finance, H.R. (Human Resources), digital services, governance functions. Our aim is to make sure that we are doing it in a really good level of detail, which we would all reflect was not done in 2018-2019. But, as the Minister says, really the only change on 1st July is Pete - the Chief Ambulance Officer - faces to the Chief Officer for Health and Care Jersey instead of to me. But we are very keen that staff properly understands the change. It should be a beneficial change and bring them closer to clinical governance structures and Health and Care colleagues.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

The proposal is that the funding for the ambulance will be ring-fenced for that purpose, which is important because you do not want to switch them from one department to the other and then suddenly find them swallowed up. I think both Kate and I will just monitor along the way.

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, that is the commitment from the Chief Officer.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

That sounds straightforward; perhaps that is one reason why a business case was not seen as necessary. We asked to see the business case and then found out that no business case had been produced for the change. Can you give any evidence to us about what justified this decision for no business case?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Can I be frank?

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Yes.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

They should never have been moved from Health to J.H.A. A number of us, in the first term of office, disagreed with the principle of moving what is a Health part to under Justice and Home Affairs, to be blunt, because they have got a blue light on the top of their vehicle. When we first started having discussions with the Minister for Health and Social Services, they were pushing at an open door, from my point of view and, I think, from the ambulance point of view as well. Because even though they have got very close working relationships with all the emergency services, which is important, they are a health facility; they will also come under the Care Commission. The thing is, they need to have those facilities and be able to tap into all of that which is going to come under the Care Commission, as opposed to being outside - an outlier - from all of that. So that is probably why it did not even occur to me, from my perspective, that you had to have a business case, because I just thought it was the wrong move in the first place.

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

There is no financial impact, which would be one of the reasons - if we needed investment - why we would write a business case; the other would be if it is a significant organisational change for staff. Of course, it is not, because it is a single line management change for the Chief Ambulance Officer. So there is no requirement in government process terms for a business case. We are very happy to explain the rationale but we have not done it through that document.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay. When that was moved before, was 2018, was it?

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

The decision was 2018; it took effect on 1st January 2019.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay, thank you. Do you expect to see any improvements in efficiency of services as a result of this change or not really?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I do not really think that that should make a difference, because it is just going to be under a different line manager; so I do not necessarily think that that will be the case.

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

Gordon and I can probably both amplify a little bit. From our point of view, what we want to do is make sure that where there is an overlap with Justice and Home Affairs services - the rest of the emergency services and others - that that remains efficient. The ambulance service is an important part in the resilience arrangements I was describing earlier, for example, and that will continue to be the case. The ambulance service and the fire and rescue service work very closely together on co-responding, as we have discussed before; that will continue to be the case. But there should be some gains and some improvements by ambulance being within that wider Health and Care Jersey family in terms of clinical governance, support for processes, procedures, et cetera. That is perhaps where the questions you have had come in.

Associate Chief Ambulance Officer:

Absolutely, I support the position that you put forward, Kate. The fundamental change that will work in favour of the ambulance service will be that reconnection with the clinical governance framework within H.C.J. (Health and Care Jersey), which will ultimately lead to us forming a part of the conversation around how we provide better healthcare to Islanders. That is one of the fundamental improvements, because we will be part of the right conversations and the meetings that will form part of the H.C.J. It is important to note that we go back into H.C.J. as a service which can contribute to the overarching partnership board and how that will work going forward. We will see improvements. I think it is improvement rather than efficiency that we will see.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Can I just ask a really quick question? What is happening to the control room? Ambulance control room.

The Connétable of Grouville:

I was about to ask the same question.

Chief Officer, Justice and Home Affairs:

From 1st July, it will remain under Justice and Home Affairs; so, it is under the J.H.A. directorate as opposed to the ambulance service. We will deliver - under a memorandum of understanding - for the ambulance service while we consider the longer-term options for the E.S.C.C (Emergency Services Control Centre). It will probably have to change more significantly in the future, but that will be the 1st July position.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay. Because we need to get just a few more questions in, we will skip to the police ones, I think.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Okay. That is fine. Thank you.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

But just quickly, there was an action plan to be shared with staff regarding working culture in the ambulance service, so have there been results following that process?

[14:45]

Associate Chief Ambulance Officer:

Yes, we have had a consultation with staff from an external company who have been brought in to work with the senior management team and all colleagues were invited to engage with that. This has resulted in the development of a staff charter setting out the standards of the organisation in improving that culture and working arrangements between the management team and the operational staff. We have already seen significant delivery against key elements of that, in starting to look at the development of people and culture plans, communication plans, as well as how we start to incorporate operational staff into some of the decision-making for the service. So, there has been some significant delivery. The plan is ongoing and due for review, as was the agreement of the meetings that were held. That is due to take place in the next month or so, I believe, so we should have then a review of where they are, take stock and then move forward. The action plans that relate to the various reviews through the Association of Chief Ambulance Executives are being constantly monitored and we are delivering against the key elements of that, which is seeing policy provision ... some of the new staffing roles that we have to support the governance framework within

the ambulance service. We are seeing real demonstrable change and delivery in, certainly, key elements of instant reporting, response and recovery, and learning from those as well.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay, thank you. I am wondering, Deputy Porée, if we could skip to question 39.

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée:

Indeed, I can. This is regarding the police. The Policing Plan 2025-2028 identifies the need for targeted interventions and early support to tackle youth crime. How will you ensure these needs are embedded across all working groups and that this will feed back into the work of the Youth Justice Roadmap?

Chief of Police:

I am delighted with the Youth Justice Roadmap. It is long overdue, there have been an awful lot of people trying to get that off the ground - or on the road, as it were - where we can work together with all agencies. I have been to this panel before and I have been in other places to say I think youth crime is too high here in Jersey. It is often committed by a very small group. I have said here before, 10 young people commit 10 per cent of total crime in Jersey. That is a consistent theme year on year. Therefore, we need better ways to divert young people away from crime. That should not be about criminalising. I take the view that we are criminalising children because ... in the absence of anything else that delivers the deterrent and the appropriate consequences. What I think the roadmap provides us is the opportunity to take different routes. As Deputy Miles knows, I am a very strong supporter of the Parish Hall enquiry process because that does not criminalise children. But often - exclusively, actually - the children that we are dealing with on an almost daily basis, they are far beyond a Parish Hall enquiry process. That has long been used. Therefore, we go into the criminal justice system; so what we need is other methods, other avenues, which do not necessarily take them into the criminal justice system per se, but which divert young people from crime. I take a strong view that there is still an absence of deterrence and consequences, and my hope is the roadmap - working with other agencies, including people in Children's Services and other government agencies and those charities - that we can work together to divert young people. I should say - and this is my final point - there are 18,000 children in this Island. Eighteen thousand children hardly ever come into contact with any of the agencies, including the police, but we have a very small and enduring cohort year on year. Clearly, that cohort changes, but there are between 10 and 15 children which the system's processes, policies and procedures currently do not deal with, hence the reason why we needed a roadmap like this.

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée:

Would you like me to carry on?

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Yes, please.

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée:

Can you please outline where police responsibilities should lie in dealing with criminal versus non-criminal work? I am sure you have mentioned that before in the previous panels.

Chief of Police:

Yes. I do not think it will surprise the panel members and other members in this meeting today, but it might others that are watching and listening. Around 15 per cent of what the police do is what, probably, Islanders think that the police should do. That is, responding to criminal activity, arresting people who commit crime, dealing with road traffic collisions, which we have already discussed. About 80 per cent of what we do is not a criminal matter, but it is part of a very significant demand. I have come here before and talked about demand placed by mental health incidents. I have just checked; there have already been 4 mental health related incidents in the last 24 hours. That is not unusual. Civil matters - there have been 3 described as "civil matters". We have approximately 6 concern for welfare calls every 24 hours. That means around about 2,500 concern for welfare - which is a catch-all phrase - where actually, what we should be doing is directing those people calling us ... sometimes, rather unfairly, I have described the control centre that we have - a joint one - as almost like the Island's call centre, because we are called particularly at weekends. That is a slight exaggeration but it is there just to illustrate the point. So what we are keen to do through the introduction of Right Care, Right Person - which has been adopted by all U.K. forces, first introduced by Humberside in 2019, now across all forces including the Metropolitan Forces - is working very closely with our partners, particularly in Health, to work out what is the right person for the right care. Often, that is related to mental health-type matters, where it is actually not appropriate for a police officer to turn up if someone is in mental health crisis. There is still a shift in mindset that ... for example, if someone was walking across the Royal Square today and they grabbed their chest, they hopefully would call these good people on my right. But when people are having a mental health crisis, it is still a medical matter which does not involve any violence - of course, we would be very keen to be part of that - and they often call the police. And so we will be working together with all our agencies, including Health, to look at how we can best make sure that there is the right care for the right person.

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée:

Thank you for your answer. Minister, regarding criminal work and non-criminal work, what role does Justice and Home Affairs play in determining who has responsibility for the different events? Should there be interventions if non-criminal cases are considerably utilising police resources?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I think - as the Chief of Police has said quite often - depending on time of day and when somebody is in crisis, it is quite often the police that they call. By introducing this Right Care, Right Person scheme which they have had running in the U.K., what that means is that, yes, they may still call the police; however, the police then hopefully will not have to be deployed because there will be very close links with mental health services and they will be able to call out mental health services. That is all part and parcel of the ongoing work. It is the same as ... it might be an ambulance matter or another matter, but it is about, when you get that call, how you manage it. It is about working with other agencies and to be able to call those other agencies for them to go and deal with it as opposed to yourselves. I think that is what it is, it is about managing that. I am not sure you will ever get to a position where people do not automatically ring the police, particularly if it is 2, 3 o'clock in the morning, because they will not necessarily think about: "Where is the number for emergency mental health care?" They will be ringing the police. The thing is, this is about us working very closely with other agencies. That means that, yes, those calls may be taken by S.O.J.P., but then it will not be S.O.J.P. resources that will then ultimately be sent to those matters. Or if they are initially sent, you will have already started the process so that that person can then be dealt with quicker in the other service. I think that is probably a good way of describing it.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

You have another question, I think?

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée:

Yes, okay. My last one. Again, this may be for Robin here. Can you please outline the process for the funding of laptops for Honorary Police from the Criminal Offences Confiscation Fund? Is this is an ongoing arrangement?

Chief of Police:

I can answer that question, unless you wanted to, Minister? But I can ...

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

The laptops?

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée:

Yes.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

They have all got the laptops.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

But we are asking if it is an ongoing arrangement.

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée:

Is that done and dusted?

Chief of Police:

We have got them and we have paid for them; it is just any upgrades or anything that ...

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

What I would suggest is that they have all got new laptops. In 3 or 4 years' time - or in my case, I have had mine for 7 years - when they need a new one, I would assume that the funding will look be looked at again. Because at this moment in time, I can say that S.O.J.P. certainly have not got the funding; so I think it will be something that, when they are needed again in the future, that there will be a ... it needs to be looked at as to how we are going to fund the Honorary Police and T.E.T.R.A. (terrestrial trunked radio) and everything else, because it is an ongoing thing. But we have resolved one problem; we are going to have a look to see how you do it on a long-term basis because it does not sit necessarily here, but we need to look at it as to who and how it is going to be funded.

Chief of Police:

I think that is absolutely right, Minister. I think there is a wider issue for ... not necessarily for Scrutiny just now, but I am delighted that our honorary officers - our honorary colleagues - have got these laptops, but it came from criminal-confiscated money. I think the value that they provide - you know, we have got Liberation Day coming up, royal visits - our Honorary Police colleagues provide an enormous amount that would cost Government and the Island a lot. Hundreds of thousands of pounds, I would suggest. There is a further discussion, which I have had with Joao Camara as the Chef from St. Peter, and Michel, about how they could seek funding on a more sustainable basis rather than having to go to this. Now, I appreciate money is tight and all the rest of it, but those discussions, which we can then share with the Minister, can go on. I do not think it is necessarily appropriate for something like this to necessarily always go into criminal confiscation because that is not a bottomless pit.

Deputy B.B. de S.V.M. Porée:

Yes, and we do not want criminals to ...

Chief of Police:

No.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Just a very last question; it was just the takeaways from the Collision and Casualty Reduction Plan. It was just to wonder what areas of improvement have been identified for collaboration between Justice and Home Affairs and Infrastructure and Health and Social Services that have come out of that plan.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

It is a thing that we are going to have to meet on, I think. We have obviously had discussions about it, but in relation to the plan, there needs to be a lot of work. There will need to be a lot of police intervention in relation to the implementation of speeding and all of those other things in relation to the plan. All of us met with potential support for - and you might have heard it on the radio - a charity in the U.K. that is keen to come to Jersey. We have all met with them as well. So, I think there is a lot of work to be done; we need to all get down together and start to work out what we are going to do. Obviously, there has been a lot of road improvements across the north of the Island: St. Martin, St. John, St. Mary, St. Peter ...

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

A lot of improvement.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes. All improvements in relation to the reduction of speeds across the Island. So, I think there is still a lot of work to do in relation to that particular plan.

Chief of Police:

Do you want me to just add to that?

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Yes.

Chief of Police:

The Collision and Casualty Reduction Plan is divided up into about 6 elements. I do not think I have ever seen such a comprehensive plan in my tenure, where it involves Government. Where I am really encouraged is, and as I have said at this meeting, we will not make road users safer by enforcement alone. That is myself and our honorary colleagues. They were out this morning in a parish you may know.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Not a million miles away.

[15:00]

Chief of Police:

Yes. They do that, and they do that on a regular basis. But this is the first comprehensive plan. The safe system approach, which we have already discussed. Again, collaboration across government portfolios; looking at vulnerable road users, cyclists and motorcyclists; and a cultural shift towards shared responsibility, which is a key part of the plan. That is where I think is the real strength.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Just quickly, this was one of Helen's questions. Any update on the speed check equipment?

Chief of Police:

It is still being built, I believe, in Sweden. It will not surprise panel members that we asked that question before we arrived, anticipating it. So we are in the hands of others but when we get it, I am sure we will let you know.

The Connétable of Grouville:

The legalities ...

Deputy H.M. Miles:

I think you said it was in Australia and America last year, so it has spread to Scandinavia.

Chief of Police:

Yes, it is a worldwide effort.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Good luck with it.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

All right, thank you very much, everyone.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Thank you.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

We have got more questions but we will send them on so you can answer in writing.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

That is fine.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Well done to the two newbies. Well done, Gordon, and well done, Andrew.

[15:01]