



Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Violence Against Women and Girls Taskforce Recommendations Progress Report

Witness: The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs

Wednesday, 16th July 2025

Panel:

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

Connétable M. Labey of Grouville (Vice Chair)

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 for Justice and Home Affairs

Mr. N. Fox, Associate Director of Justice Policy

Ms. C. De Gruchy Moseley, Justice and Building a Safer Community Coordinator

[13:30]

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

Welcome to this special hearing on V.A.W.G. (Violence Against Women and Girls). Today is 16th July 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 switched to silent and I would ask that any members of the public who have joined us in the room today to not interfere in the

proceedings and as soon as the hearing is closed, please leave quietly. We have 1½ hours, I think, for this hearing. I am Deputy Catherine Curtis, the chair of the panel.

Connétable M. Labey of Grouville (Vice Chair):

My name is Mark Labey, Connétable of Grouville, and I am vice chair.

Deputy H.M. Miles of St. Brelade:

Deputy Helen Miles of St. Brelade, member of the panel.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Deputy Mary Le Hegarat, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs.

Chief Officer for Justice and Home Affairs:

Kate Briden, Chief Officer for Justice and Home Affairs.

Justice and Building a Safer Community Coordinator:

Cirsty De Gruchy Moseley, Justice and Building a Safer Community Coordinator.

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

Nathan Fox, Associate Director of Justice Policy.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Thanks, everyone. I will start with some quite general questions. This is such a big subject and we have a lot of questions. Minister, since the publication of the report in November 2023, can you advise the panel on how you feel that the V.A.W.G. recommendations have progressed?

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I think I can honestly say that they are progressing well. I think the team can be commended for the level of work and commitment that they have given to the violence against women and girls, bearing in mind there were 77 recommendations, so there is quite a lot of legislation within that. I think the team can be really commended for the level of work that they have put in. Obviously this is the start of an ongoing journey because even though this was a review with recommendations, this does not stop at the end of the time that we have completed those recommendations because obviously moving forward we need to ensure that the legislation keeps updated and continues to be kept updated alongside resourcing for those in areas where victims of crimes need to be supported alongside the investigation, prosecution, et cetera. It will need funding in the future without a doubt.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

My next question is about those recommendations labelled “complete”. What real world improvements can you point to, some of the things you were mentioning like support services and so on?

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

In relation to the public awareness, I think we can look at the street harassment where there was a campaign in 2024 in relation to “It’s not okay” and the evaluation of the public’s awareness about what was and was not really acceptable behaviour. I think sometimes historically we have thought things were okay but they actually were not. It is not only about safety but it is about people feeling comfortable and feeling safe, and that is a really big thing for me, if I am honest. So that was one thing. In relation to some of the other things, there were parts of it as well about the presence within the community of the police. So, of course, that incorporates certain areas where in the past certain people have said they felt unsafe, where maybe there is parts of the town that are not necessarily that well lit, so people have not wanted to walk through them. They are quite dark and dingy, dare I say it, in certain locations, so I think that is also important. From the point of view of the policing, because, of course, the police have shifted from one end of the town to the other, I think it is about making sure that your resources are in the places at the right time. It is also about, as I said, some of my colleagues have committed to making street lighting better, so I think that is another thing moving forward. There are other things, campaign awareness projects that will continue. I think it is important that those do, again because it is not just today, it is tomorrow and the weeks ahead. So I think those sorts of things, it is worth continuing those sorts of projects.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay. Of those 27 recommendations that have been now labelled as “complete”, you have mentioned things like awareness and the police presence. Are there any other improvements that you think ...

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I think obviously there is talk about data reporting and so, of course, we need to ... one of the recommendations is review of reporting data and one of the things was that they thought that there was a disproportionate ... in relation to the reporting and the conduct of the police in relation to depending on the sex of the person. There has been a review of that and they have looked at it and that does not come up as a factor but, of course, if somebody does feel that that is the case then I think at the time if they feel that that, it is probably worth feeding back as a matter of if that happens at the time. It is always very difficult thereafter to backtrack. But that was certainly something that did not come up once it was actually reviewed. There are things in relation to J.C.I.S. (Jersey Customs and Immigration Services) that was asked for improvements for the communication of immigration decisions and awareness of complaints and appeals of processes. The feedback and

complaints links have all been put on the websites now and decision templates and signposting. There is quite a lot of things that we probably may have been doing, however there was no signposting for people to actually find out where those things are. I think, if I am honest, sometimes I find it challenging going on to the States of Jersey website to find what you want because I do not think they are always the best places and the best way to find things. I think as a Government as a whole, we need to keep looking at those, so when people say: "Well, I could not find something" then we need to take that into account and then look at it. I think there are certain things that were highlighted within this review as well.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

That is signposting as well.

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes. So there is a lot more signposting. There is quite a few that were referred to for J.C.I.S. There has been training done in relation to the awareness of domestic abuse. As I said, there is guidance again in relation to the work permit policy, which has been updated, and that was partly as a result of the review run by Deputy Porée. There were some of those things about signposting. I think the thing is that we need to sometimes identify that when we are employing people from overseas in particular we need them to be able to access the information that we have got on our systems and if that is not the case then we need to make sure that there are mechanisms in place so that they can get that data in other ways.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Minister, just from the public's point of view, could you identify what J.C.I.S. is, please?

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Sorry, Jersey Customs and Immigration Services. My apologies.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Out of the 77 recommendations, would you say that there are some that are at risk of slipping behind schedule and what specific actions are you taking to keep them on track?

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I think I might ask Nathan because he is the one who has probably got the broader ... and liaises with the other Ministers as well, so that might be of benefit.

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

The suite of 77 recommendations is a pretty broad church of stuff. It would be difficult to identify any at this point, mid-2025, where you would say that is not going to land within the lifetime of this Government, which is ultimately the intention of the timing for all of them. Where you would see risk creeping in is where you have cross-government working with distributed responsibility. Where the recommendations land on other parts of government or outside government, in the case of the Courts- and I think there is even some third-sector directive recommendations - it is more difficult to get everyone aligned and to try to achieve those things on the timeline, but at the moment we are pretty confident about the timings of everything. Those things we have not started have not been started for a reason, which is scheduling. For instance, the Family Courts review has not started yet. We are in the process of starting but that is scheduled quite deliberately not to run at the same time as our criminal justice review because many people will be involved in both things. Where Government, I think - and this is going back to the theme of Kate Wright's comments, the taskforce chair, which were reported recently - has to take a long time to do things tends to be on the legislative side, especially around criminal justice legislation. It is such a sensitive area and it must be so absolutely right and must consider especially the rights of all the people involved in an extremely complex and moving process. That does tend to take longer. We are confident at this point in the year, with first drafts of all the necessary legislation arriving at this point, that we are going to be able to progress that by the end of the year. If that changes, and the panel know that officers come regularly to talk about legislation we have coming forward, I can assure you we will come back with any timing changes on that.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

That is all the legislative changes, you are confident that ...

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

There are 5 pieces. By the end of the week we should have the first drafts of 4. The non-fatal strangulation piece is running slightly behind the others, not because it is particularly difficult or complicated. It is just a case of scheduling things really. It is not the most complicated of the pieces.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Thanks for that. Some of the recommendations are listed as not started or awaiting reporting, and you have briefly mentioned that already. Is there something that can be done to move these forward? Is there any more that can be done?

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

That is an interesting concept really. I think we are working at reasonable pace to get it all done. I think if we looked at this as a whole, the level of work that was probably done within the review and the level of recommendations that have come out of it and the level of work that needs to be done,

I think we are doing pretty well because it is a huge piece of work and sometimes people might say would extra resources necessarily make a difference, and it would not always make a difference because you can only do so much and keep track of one thing ... not one thing at a time but you know what I mean. To be able to schedule everything in and get everything keeping going, I think we are doing pretty well with what we have got, I think.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Yes, there is a lot. Do you have a timeframe for every recommendation, a planned timeframe of what you would like to see?

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

We have probably got a schedule. We have got a schedule which I think we can probably share, if we have not already, but I think we do have a schedule. In fact, I think we might have actually shared it previously. Yes, I think we might have shared it previously where we thoughts things would land. I am not 100 per cent sure, if I am honest, Chair.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

For every recommendation?

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes. I think there was pretty much a timeline on one of the documentations. We may not have shared it with you but we will make sure we do.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Thank you.

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I think that is quite important that we try to keep to those timelines and if we cannot then we say why we are not, because I think that is always the important part, is it not? Particularly with all the work that has gone on in multiagencies, I think it is always important that everybody knows where it is at so that people do not think that we are not doing it or it is not going to be delivered, because I think that is quite important that people think it is going to be delivered.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

I just want to ask about some of the items marked as "complete" and the notes on the report say because existing arrangements were judged sufficient, for example recommendation 18 on police callout data and recommendation 35 on Family Courts contact orders. Of the complete

recommendations where no new work has begun, is that status appropriate? Is it appropriate to mark them as complete when nothing actually has changed?

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I think the thing is that if you look at the one ... did you say 18?

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

I just gave a couple of examples and 18 was one of them.

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, 18 I think was the one that I talked about just a couple of minutes ago where it says ... I will refer to the longer version, if you like. That one talked about that it was viewed that when people were reporting things and it was men or women that they were treated differently. The data has been looked at and undertaken by the States of Jersey Police to establish whether any disproportionality existed in respect of the type of action taken when women or men report incidents and they could not find any disproportionality of action against or in support of men or women was detected. Effectively, the request was that was perceived to be the case but when they have researched it they have said they do not think that that is the case.

[13:45]

That is why I said earlier that I think what is always important, I think if someone feels that maybe they are being treated differently, then it is probably of value to raising that at the time. Certainly now that we know that people might feel that that is the case, I think it is important that that is raised at the time because that way those matters could be addressed. When they have researched, it does not look like there has been but it is about how somebody might feel at the time and how they feel that they have been dealt with.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

That was a useful point that was raised. Just on the subject of things being marked "complete", I have not got the number of it but I remember something about training that was recommended and then was not done because there is only 2 people available or something like that and it is marked as "complete". Is that appropriate to mark as "complete"?

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I think that was the one in relation to the Family Court.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

It might have been.

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, because the Family Court, I think it is the one to do with the Family Court and I cannot ...

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

It is one of them, I think, to do with the Family Court.

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes. I think what we were saying was that they were unable to do ... because there was only 2 of them, they were unable to do that. However, because we are going to be reviewing the Family Court anyway, that if there was anything that was missing from that, that could be identified at that stage. That is off the top of my head. I think that is the one that you are referring to because the one that I am talking about ...

Chief Officer for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, I think that is recommendation 35 that you are recalling, Minister, which is where the Family Court has only 2 judges.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

That is good but it is not actually complete though, is it?

Chief Officer for Justice and Home Affairs:

I think it is regarded as that action is complete because it is saying that in those circumstances it is closed but the overarching recommendation about a review of the Family Court system is still very much live, and I suspect we will talk about it in a minute. The elements of this recommendation would be picked up in that.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Beyond funding, what additional staff expertise and cross-government structures have been secured to support delivery? Are these resources guaranteed for the life of the programme?

Chief Officer for Justice and Home Affairs:

I think that falls into 2 parts of the question, if I may. Part of it is Nathan and the policy team, who are working on it also with some analytical support in terms of taking the core of the recommendations and implementing them, but I think the next part of the question is what happens next. So just as we are evolving into the next stage really, having published the one-year annual report, there will obviously be more to come. We are conscious that this is not just do the

recommendations and then it is finished. It is a durable piece of work that needs to be strategically important across government for many years to come. In some ways idealistically you would hope that that is not necessary but the reality is it will be. That is where the community approach, that States Members have been briefed on this morning and will continue to do that, will come in in terms of how does that community safety piece for the Island, which we have talked about here before and will carry on, kick in and click together with continuing work around violence against women and girls to make sure that we continue the oversight, the Council of Ministers still regard it as an important priority, which I am sure any future Council will, but that we have got good co-ordination of all the available resourcing focused on the ongoing V.A.W.G. ... I am trying not to say recommendations because by then it needs to be about the way we work rather than the recommendations from the taskforce. So I think that is just beginning to emerge in our thinking in the ways that Cirsty presented on this morning to States Members and we can perhaps talk about a little bit more through this hearing. That is where I think the Minister is really committed to making sure that this is a durable piece of work, it is not just about delivering ... these are really important but it is not just about delivering these recommendations.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Flow out through building a safer community framework. Speaking of women's and girls' welfare more generally, Minister, you have previously advised the Assembly that you were considering whether misogyny should be part of the proposed hate crime law. Please can you provide us with an update on that work?

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Okay. I believe from questions that I have been asked in the past in relation to the hate crime, the reason that it is not in a progressed state is because the policy officer who is going to be doing that work has been doing the police complaints legislation, which has been bouncing around for a significant period of time and, unfortunately, should have been dealt with a lot sooner. Therefore, in relation to the hate crime piece, that is why it has not been progressed as we would have liked. It is obviously a significant piece of work that needs to be done and my view has not changed in relation to the misogyny part of it. I think it just needs to start as soon as ... I would say the lodging of police complaints is going to be September.

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

The lodging of police complaints should be imminent because it is functionally a finished piece of legislation. It is just completing the necessary stuff around it to get it ...

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes. So once that is lodged, then that policy officer will start working on the hate crime but, as I said, it is a big piece of work and realistically (a) it is a big piece of work but (b) with all the legislative changes relevant to the violence against women and girls, it is never going to get to the stage of being in a position to be able to go to the drafters, be lodged and debated prior to June, unfortunately.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

So that will be not this term then?

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

No, but trust me, we will get it as far as we possibly can to doing that work. I do not know if you can add any more to that, Nathan.

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

Yes, just to say that the hate crime that we have scheduled in should be worked on after an existing piece of work, which has proved very difficult to finish. It is no fault of anyone involved. It is just an extremely difficult piece of legislation to try to get right, encompassing as it does the police complaints arrangements for all police in the Island across the Honorary and States Police. Yes, absolutely, when the officer becomes free there is a conversation to have about what they do next and if the Minister's decision is that should be hate crime then, yes, we will pick it up on that day.

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

In this environment can I just say that if those offences are committed that people must still report them, because I know it is not specific legislation but there is legislation where they can get prosecutions and those can be aggravating factors. I do fully accept that in relation to this type of crime a specific crime is the best way forward. However, I would really like to put it on record that it really is valuable for people to report those crimes and anyone who can encourage people to do that, it is of real benefit because, of course, changing people's behaviour is, in my view, quite often the prosecution process and people being dealt with because then that will encourage others to come forward. It is the same as with the violence against women and girls. That has always been the ongoing battle. Once you start getting people convicted and getting reasonable sentences for their behaviour, then people will feel confident because they will feel that they are being believed in what they are reporting. Even though the law is not perfect, I would still encourage people to come forward and report those cases because it is important.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

So it is best for people to come forward and report. Is that data collected on hate crimes? Is the data being collected so you can see what is happening?

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I would imagine that S.O.J.P. (States of Jersey Police) are collecting that data. I will verify that for you but I cannot understand why they would not be. I would imagine that that will be collected, but I would not say that is a definite from the point of view of depending on what type of hate crime it is. I will go back to them but I would imagine that it is being collected. Some of the systems are not always as good as they could be, but I believe it is.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Bearing in mind you have got all these recommendations that are being acted upon with the V.A.W.G., all the same what can be done in the meantime before there is a hate crime law in place to protect women, including members of the LGBTQ+ community, from gender-based violence? Is there anything more specific that can be done, like campaigns and things like that?

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

We have obviously done quite a lot of campaigning. As I said, we did one in relation to street behaviour. We have done the one in relation to coercive behaviour and we will continue to do those types of campaigns through our media. It is an ongoing thing and, of course, we have now got the awareness campaign in relation to Clare's Law as well, which S.O.J.P. have done a lot on both internally and publicly. I think that is the thing and it is about ensuring that all those people that work within various different agencies are aware of what to look for in relation to violence against women and girls as well. So I think there is lots of strands to it and I think it is important that everybody knows and is able to promote those shared values really.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Are there any plans to rerun the "Hate doesn't belong here" campaign, the one that the police did back in 2019?

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Not that I am aware of but it is probably not a bad idea.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

It was very successful.

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes. The thing is any campaign that can heighten awareness I think is a really good thing. I would imagine our press officer is listening in to this and no doubt would have been around in 2019 and may very well have been the officer that actually worked on it anyway. Yes, of course, that would be really valuable.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

That would be good.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Thank you. Hopefully these will be quite quick questions on research, evidence and data and the legislation. One of the recommendations was about conducting some studies on marginalised women, sexual exploitation and honour-based violence. We were just wondering when they are going to start, who is going to run them and how the results are going to be used? It is 2, 6 and 9

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

That is part of our scheduling piece. There are some other recommendations that follow from that. The plan is to start in September 2025 and we are currently developing the process of how we are going to go about getting information. The suspicion is that much of that information actually exists but Jersey, and I think many other jurisdictions, does have a habit of having extremely useful information in some places, not necessarily joining up datasets and bringing it together and making something useful. The general intention with that is to try to use existing trusted sources to gather the information because, as we found in our broader violence against women and girls work and also in the work we have previously done on hate crime and other things, if the Government simply turn up and start asking intrusive questions of people, especially people in marginalised communities, they do not answer. So what we need to ensure is that we are using groups and organisations and people who are trusted enough to be trusted with disclosure, effectively. Between using established systems and material we already have, undiscovered in pockets around the place, the hope is we can manage that work without having to generate new groups and new systems, but having to bring external analysts in.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

You talked about datasets. The first combined dataset was due quarter 3, 2025. Are we still on track for that?

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

Are we still on track for that? I think the intention is still to deliver the dataset by end of Q3 2025. Sorry, I have jumped in on this one as well, Minister.

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

That is fine. You have a better data head than mine.

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

Well, we have people for that. We have the data from almost all the data holders. So the idea is to look at things like how they flow through the third sector, how they go into the police system, what their experiences are there, to really bring it all in to get a holistic understanding of how this operating and people's experiences. The police have agreed to provide all necessary data but there is a bit of a resourcing issue with their analytical capacity to take people off crime prevention work and get them to go to the data piece. So what we have sorted out now is that we are going to send somebody there for a few months to sit in the police station with all full clearances and gather the data for us.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

I was just going to ask whether some of the data will be anonymised so that it can be released publicly?

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

Yes. The anonymisation plan is really at the heart of all this. The need to simultaneously try and join up individuals from one ... people who have come out of one service into another and yet at the same time not at any point record who they are has been vexing, quite frankly. So we are working our way through that and when we get the police data in we will have a look at the whole thing holistically and see how that is the risk. You will always have less publishable and revealable data than you would ideally in an ideal world want to have, because of the need to preserve the anonymity of the individuals involved.

[14:00]

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Thank you. What processes are you putting in place around the policy of the data?

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

Again, that is a big topic of conversation, because you have 2 risks. Where you try and join stuff up, you have the risk that you as the processor of the data might get it wrong. You can screen that out pretty effectively. When you are dealing with data input by a bunch of different people across a bunch of different years, there is always the risk of input error. Then again, any analysis of this kind has the same risk and it is manageable. Ultimately, it is a case of understanding what the data is, understanding the limitations of the data, and ensuring that you have your error analysis as a core part of your output, so nobody is confused into thinking they have perfect truth in their hands.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Thank you. Recommendation 23 calls for charging, acquittal and sentencing figures, broken down by sex, again, to be published in one place and kept current. When do you think that consolidated dataset will go live, if at all, and how often will it be updated?

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

I do not believe we have given a timeline for that because that rests on data from the courts and other parties who we have been in discussions with about this. I am not sure we have zeroed in on that timeline.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

What role is the Criminal Justice Working Group having to pull all of this together to make sure that the individual agencies are working together to provide us with a common set of data?

Chief Officer for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes. We have had a number of discussions about it at the Criminal Justice Working Group, which is now meeting regularly, quarterly.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

For standing item?

Chief Officer for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes. I am only checking, because I was not at the last meeting.

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

It is mentioned every meeting without exception.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Okay.

Chief Officer for Justice and Home Affairs:

Then, as a matter of an extra meeting, about 2 or 3 months ago we had a mapping workshop. We took the criminal justice system map that will be familiar to the panel. We took it apart a bit and worked out what was not relevant to the ... it is not all relevant immediately to the V.A.W.G. mapping exercise, put it to everyone around the table and said: "Bring us all the data you have for those relevant factors on charging, acquittal, et cetera." We pooled what we had, which was a bit lacking in actual data but rich in information and intel, if you put it like that. Cirsty and the analyst are working together to determine what the gaps are and what we need. Then we will revisit that in the autumn.

Justice and Building a Safer Community Coordinator:

The statistics are to be reported by August, so that then we can in Q4 take the statistics and start working it through.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

So it is a standing item on the Criminal Justice Working Group agenda. Obviously above the Criminal Working Group is the Criminal Justice Strategic Board. Has the Criminal Justice Strategic Board met?

Chief Officer for Justice and Home Affairs:

No, but we have discussed it with the Deputy Bailiff, soon to be Bailiff, and he is intending that it will meet in October.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Okay. Will V.A.W.G. be a key strategic issue for our justice system?

Chief Officer for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, that would be my recommendation to the board. Whether they accept it is a different question.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Okay. I do not believe that group has met since 2018.

Chief Officer for Justice and Home Affairs:

No, it has not. The Deputy Bailiff recognises that it is important.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Thank you. In terms of legislation convention compliance, the Istanbul Convention, where are we with extending the Istanbul Convention to Jersey, please?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Officers from Justice Policy and External Relations have met with the U.K. (United Kingdom) Home Office to determine how Jersey can join the U.K. timeline for implementation and ratification of the convention. As a result of this meeting, officers are currently working on an initial questionnaire from the G.R.E.V.I.O. (Group of Experts on Action Against Violence Against Women and Girls and Domestic Violence), the monitoring body of the convention, which requires extensive detailing of Government States of Jersey Police, as well as other agencies, policies and data collection methods. Once complete, this will determine how Jersey joins the U.K. timeline. This is currently planned to be done by the end of July.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Are we still on track for that?

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

The questionnaire, yes, but the treaty compliance timeline is partly in our hands and partly in the U.K.'s hands and partly in the G.R.E.V.I.O., the management of the convention's, hands.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Does the fact that our domestic abuse strategy is coming to an end have an impact on the G.R.E.V.I.O.?

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

I am not sure if it does or not, because I cannot remember every question in the questionnaire, I am afraid, which is a pretty extensive document.

Chief Officer for Justice and Home Affairs:

It is agreed, though, that that strategy is coming to an end under the auspices of the safeguarding partnership and linked in with that we will have a domestic abuse approach being defined.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

That will be sufficient? Okay, thank you. Draft laws on emergency barring order stalking and non-fatal strangulation, can we have an update on the timescales for those and whether or not they are going to be consulted on in advance?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I can give the data, but you probably have a better overview knowledge in relation to the legislation or which ones are going where they are.

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

I do and I would be happy to go through it. The emergency barring orders piece is an amendment to the Domestic Abuse Law. We are expecting the first draft of that this week. I had a conversation with the drafter a number of times. We are broadly satisfied with the components of it that we have discussed. The assumption has been that everything would be consulted on in the normal way for bringing the legislation forward. Stalking, in terms of timeline, we are hoping for this week as well. We have the intimate image abuse pieces. We have had those for a while. We have bounced them back and forth, if not a legal review, and broadly speaking are satisfied with them. They are the most advanced piece. The only thing we are not going to have a draft on by the end of the week is the non-fatal strangulation offence. Not because it is less important, but just because it is conceptually - I am not being facetious - a hard concept. It is a little bit more difficult in Jersey, because our legal structure is different. We do not have an offence to put it into but we understand

what we want from it. We have discussed it with the drafter and that will be the next thing they pick up.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Will it be a standalone non-fatal strangulation law or are you going to stick it in somewhere else?

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

We do not know. It is partly for the drafter. It might have to be. Yes, that is a little odd, but it might have to be.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Thank you. Recommendations 10 and 11 propose giving the Information Commissioner new powers to have harmful online content removed quickly. The progress report says the scope of these powers is still under discussion. Obviously our panel have a great interest in online harms at the moment with the scrutiny that we have been doing. When will you be able to bring forward those detailed proposals covering the exact enforcement powers and the timetable?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

The officers are meeting regularly with Digital Economy colleagues to keep updated about each team's policy developments, including the proposed legislation for online platform regulation and enforcement. We have been informed that the policy proposal developed by the Department of the Economy seeks to empower Islanders to better claim online privacy rights, such as take down requests against online platforms, if necessary, with support of the Information Commissioner. While policy is in development, it is too early to determine resourcing requirements to enforce that legislation.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Who will fund that? Will it be Home Affairs or Sustainable Economic Development?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

The law sits with them, so one assumes it will have to sit with them as well, because it is their piece of legislation.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

That is potentially another hurdle then, not just the legislation, actually funding it.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Thank you. The other thing that you have noted is that there will be no formal review of the Domestic Abuse Law until 2028, which sounds like quite a way off. The panel were wondering whether the part of that particularly around economic abuse could be brought forward.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

It was only based on the fact that somebody had something for about 5 years. It came in in 2023, so 2028. From my perspective, I would think that things need to be looked at more often than just a given period of time. From the economic side of it, it will need to be looked at.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

You would be supportive of bringing it forward?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Absolutely, yes, from that point of view. It is like with everything, there are certain elements of it that would benefit from being looked at earlier.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Thank you.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Moving on to the Family Court and Criminal Justice Review, Minister, what is the scope, timetable and publication plans for the independent Criminal Justice Review led by Eleanor Laws KC.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

The review is currently taking place. The methodology of the review involves interviews and focus groups from the various entities that are involved: interviews with victim survivors with recent experience as in 2022, 2023, analysis of case files, and other internal documents, as well as observation of criminal justice processes, including early investigative advice meetings, no further action panels, domestic abuse trials, R.A.S.S.O. (rape and serious sexual offences) trials, and observations of relevant training. That is due for completion by September, from memory. It is going well. There has been a lot of work done between policy officers. Although I am not getting involved in the actual process, there has been a lot of ongoing work that has facilitated a lot of this work. It has been going well. Do you want to add anything to that, Nathan?

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

No, that is entirely right, it has. I feel it has done extremely well. The reviewer is tremendously well qualified and fiercely independent. She has observed trial, looked at documentation and in recent months she has been talking a great deal to victim survivors. We are coming to the end of that period of interviews now. The report is being drafted and has been drafted for some time. We are expecting to start to see drafts in August, ahead of an intended completion in September.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Thank you very much. What participation will survivor advocates have within this process?

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

Survivor advocates? The review have been talking directly to the survivors themselves. I believe that she has been dealing with charitable and third-sector people who advocate for support victims.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Part of the group that is included in all that is Jersey Domestic Assault Abuse Support, Dewberry House, Victims First, probation and aftercare service. They have all been involved with that.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Thank you. Minister, the panel understands that the court system is not in the remit of the Home Affairs Department, but from your perspective what date do you think will judges, lawyers, court advisers have completed training on domestic abuse, coercive control, economic abuse and all these subjects - recommendation 39.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

In relation to the Family Courts, there has been training that has been provided back in November 2024. The judiciary were invited by Professor Jo Delahunty, a well-regarded specialist in children's law, to deliver training to professionals, which was attended by the judiciary, the Family Court and members of the Jersey Family Justice Council. The content of the training included how to recognise and manage risk within the courts, addressing allegations of domestic abuse thoroughly and safely during proceedings, and offering special measures to prevent re-victimisation and re-traumatisation of those victims. That has taken place.

The Connétable of Grouville:

That is excellent. Thank you, Minister.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

A little bit more on the Family Courts. You have mentioned some of this, but how is it going to be ensured that the Family Courts accept and embed the taskforce recommendations into everyday practice?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

There is going to be a review of the Family Courts as well, which will take place once somebody has been selected to do that piece of work. As Nathan alluded to earlier, it is going to run pretty much after the other one has almost been completed, mostly because of the fact that it was important to not do everything all at the same time.

[14:15]

You are talking about the ongoing work. The thing is that once the review of the Family Court processes has been made that will be the time when the recommendations will be accepted or not accepted by that particular court. Moving forward, those recommendations will be seen to be moving forward. It is probably important to say that now that the Justice Council has been set up and there is a whole body of people involved in that, including the Family Courts, myself, the Minister for Children and Families, Kate and others. There is quite a broad group of individuals. Once that review has been done, the group as a whole will accept what that review will come out with. I am not saying they will accept every recommendation, but what I am saying is that it is acknowledged by all the people around the table that both of the reviews that are happening needed to happen. I am quite confident with the people around the table that that will move forward and those recommendations will be acted upon.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

My question was also around monitoring of if some of these things that are agreed are not being done, also for whether the Family Court is applying the new domestic abuse guidance, as in recommendations 33 and 39, consistently. Things about monitoring, treatment of survivors, language in judgments, how is this going to be monitored over time? If it is not working out, what would be done about it?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Part of the process, reminding that advocates within the Justice Council as well, a lot of them are working within the Family Courts, so to ensure that it is moving forward will be feedback. What will need to happen is there will need to be an opportunity for people to feed back after they have been dealt with within the court process and therefore be able to feed back any sort of things that they were not quite so happy with in relation to how things were dealt with. There will have to be some sort of monitoring process. Whether that is like you or I, if we go into the hospital we are given a

form at the end to ask you how you feel it has been dealt with. That will need to happen in relation to those changes if there are recommendations made.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

A quick question along the same lines, you have the Criminal Justice Strategic Board who are responsible strategically for criminal justice. Is the newly formed Family Justice Council the equivalent for Family Court?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I would say so, yes.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

The Family Justice Council is chaired by ...?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

The Deputy Bailiff currently.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

That should give us some comfort then in terms of the monitoring that there is a body who will be making sure of these particular recommendations that do not fall within the aegis of the Minister.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Thank you.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I would say probably the Family Justice Council is ...

Deputy H.M. Miles:

That is new, is it not?

Chief Officer for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, it is new. It is modelled on a more formal function that is similar in the U.K., albeit adapted for Jersey context. What it gives, in strength of the question, is that it is a broad membership but within a narrow sector. It covers the reference of the Criminal Justice Strategic Board and the Criminal Justice Working Group in one meeting.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

For Family Court, yes, okay.

Chief Officer for Justice and Home Affairs:

The criminal justice structure, which is good and we need to build the top bit of it back up ... the Family Justice Council structure is working well and we are all heartened it is in place and the discussions have been good. There an experienced member of the Family Court in the U.K. co-opted on. There are a number of different strengths there, including, as the Minister says, the practitioners at the table as well. Yes, that is the heart of the answer to the question. It is in its infancy. It has met 3 or 4 times, maybe a year in.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes. What is also good is as a group they are all doing different pieces of work and they are all working cross-sectionally together, which is good.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Thank you. My last question on this then was about opportunities for feedback from the women, men and children who use the Family Courts. There is nothing planned on how this is going to be done yet, I suppose?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Something in the back of my mind, I seem to think that there is something. When I talked about the working group, I have a feeling that this might be something that they were talking about, whereby they were able to get feedback. I have a feeling that that might be one of the streams of work, from memory.

Chief Officer for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, it is, but it is only in its infancy.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, it is in its infancy. To be honest, once we have had the reviews, that would be an important part to have, to be able to give feedback. However that feedback is given is important for that service.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Thank you.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Thank you, Chair. I will be talking about support services and accommodation. Minister, can you advise the panel what funding model and opening date are planned for services aimed at minority and marginalised survivor groups? This is referenced in recommendation 62.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Everybody will probably be aware, fairly early doors following this review, both myself and the Minister for Social Security met with officers. It was quite clear that something needed to happen in relation to domestic violence. The Minister for Social Security introduced 13 weeks of financial support for those with less than 5 years residency, who have experienced domestic abuse. That was in April of last year. This was in response to recommendation 49 of the taskforce. This policy is in place to offer immediate financial protection for those most vulnerable, including those who are on strict immigration conditions and may not have recourse to public funds to receive that financial support. We have had positive feedback in relation to that when we visited F.R.E.E.D.A. (Free from Domestic Abuse). They had already seen that that was helping people. To further support victims of domestic abuse, in August 2024, the Minister for Social Security agreed to shorten the residency requirements for income support for cases of exceptional circumstances from 5 years to 3 years, and one year if the individual has dependent children for these exceptional circumstances. Evidence would have to be provided of domestic abuse in order to be able to get that funding. Officers within Justice and Home Affairs are working alongside officers in Social Security to update and refine policy guidance for these concessions. The guidance will clearly explain the entitlements to income settlement and residency under the Control of Housing and Work (Jersey) Law 2012 should they decide to change their immigration route or the concession if they are reliant on their ex-partner for their permission. There has been quite a lot going on in this particular area. In relation to the counselling and therapy needs, I requested a gap analysis in relation to the current counselling and therapeutic support provision for victim survivors. It was done by Mike Cutland, Head of Probation, and Andy Weir, Head of Mental Health Services. I have received a letter this year outlining some of the key, strategic and operational gaps, but further work needs to be done in relation to this before we can decide how we are going to move forward. Everybody has been working for us, have they not?

The Connétable of Grouville:

That is good news, Minister. Following the review of independent domestic violence adviser provision, can you advise the panel how much additional capacity has been agreed and, if so, when will this be in place?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:"

The J.D.A.S. (Jersey Domestic and Sexual Abuse Support Service) have corresponded and shared resources with officers from Justice Policy as part of their confidential review into their capacity and resourcing requirements to meet best practice standards. The data and findings from this review are being followed up by further research into onward referrals to better understand where capacity issues in other services may help alleviate J.D.A.S. capacity issues. There is more work to do. You can probably give a bit more to that as well.

Justice and Building a Safer Community Coordinator:

Yes, we have been working with J.D.A.S. to understand some of their capacity issues. The other officers have done a review around it. What we are now doing is a bit of a deeper dive into really understanding that and understanding the pathways through J.D.A.S. to understand what is coming and what is going out and where are the blockers in those systems. It is quite a complex piece of work in that respect because it is multifactorial. That ties in as well with therapy provision and counselling provision, because people cannot move on if there is not provision for them to move on. It flows in between those 2 pieces of work. There is still more work ongoing with that.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Yes, and the planned expansion of follow-on accommodation for survivors: how many additional units are expected or planned?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

In relation to the accommodation, yesterday's publication of the Homelessness in Jersey Report first quarter revealed that domestic abuse is a factor to that for homelessness for women in Jersey. It counts as 26 per cent of the main reasons for homelessness, which has increased from 22 per cent since the last report. We are aware that the Minister for Housing is working to fulfil the recommendations made from the published review of follow-on accommodation, which was published in November 2024. This report sets out areas of focus which aim to improve the housing needs of victim survivors and strengthen the support available to vulnerable groups affected by domestic abuse. It is something that is ongoing within the Minister for Housing's remit; it is ongoing. We are trying to find some resolutions. If somebody needs to leave and goes into F.R.E.E.D.A. we need to have a plan for when they are able to progress and move forward from there.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Thank you, Minister.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

I have some questions about perpetrator work, training and awareness. Minister, how will perpetrator programmes be strengthened, including any decisions on respect, accreditation and widening access beyond court mandated referrals?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

The Probation Service, who run the Building Healthy Relationships Programme, have compared the requirements of multiple accrediting bodies for perpetrator programmes, which will be reviewed and discussed with policy officers to determine which is the best for our needs in Jersey.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Do you know any timings on how that might be happening?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I do not have the timings on that, I am afraid.

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

We are in discussion with them at the moment about it. We have not set a detailed timeline for that, but we can confirm that to you.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay, thanks. Minister, across all training programmes like Refuge, Alpha Vesta, SaveLives, The Links Group and others, could you advise the panel on what outcome measures will be used and what proportion of the target workforce is expected to be trained by the end of this year?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

In response to recommendation 68, we have commissioned a training programme for public service professionals from a domestic abuse organisation called Alpha Vesta. This training is designed to equip professionals with a deeper understanding of perpetrators of domestic abuse and how they may use certain strategies within public services to abuse and coerce victim survivors. We will be training professionals from Social Security, Children's Services, Customs and Immigration, Family Court Advisory Service, as well as Housing Services. This will also include a programme to train up on-Island trainers to support the ongoing delivery of perpetrator-focused training. These training sessions are being delivered in September and October of this year. The trainers will provide a final evaluation report in December to monitor feedback and evaluate success. What we are doing with this is that while it is valuable having training, it is the ongoing training. What we are doing is relation to this is to train trainers so that we have on-Island trainers, so that people can continue to be trained as different people come and go from various organisations.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

That is good. You think that also the public sector who are involved in this area will be trained by the end of this year.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

There will also be those people ready to continue training?

[14:30]

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, that is the information we have, yes.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

It will be monitored at the end to see people's ...

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes. It will be evaluated like any training and feedback will be provided.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay. What projects are under way to involve men and boys in challenging harmful gender norms? How will you measure success with that?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

It is important to acknowledge that violence is not only experienced by women and girls but men and boys as well. Therefore, including men and boys in these conversations is vital to support this work. Violence against women and girls schools guidance has been designed with a focus on engaging men and boys. It offers practical advice and support for school staff on how to involve young men and boys in violence prevention efforts in a way that is inclusive and avoids making anyone feel alienated or unfairly targeted. I think this guidance was developed by the education subgroup of the Violence Against Women and Girls Taskforce, comprising a membership of school leaders, P.S.H.E. (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) leaders, safeguarding leads, Youth Services and Victim Services. In 2024 we did, as I said, the "It's not okay" campaign, which was launched to tackle street harassment, with a specific focus on reaching 16 to 25 year-old men and boys. The campaign was promoted through social media and posters displayed in schools, aiming to raise awareness about what street harassment is, how to challenge it and where to report

incidents or seek support. Engaging men and boys has been at the centre of addressing these issues and will continue to be in the future initiatives.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

The schools guidance, do you know if that is in place now in secondary schools?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

As far as I am aware, yes.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay. You mentioned the “It’s not okay” street harassment campaign. There was also a “Coercive control is abuse” campaign.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Also the Snow Hill Lighting Project. What evaluation has been done about those? How will the findings shape future work?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

When you say evaluation, the feedback has come in as positive. To get a better idea of that is probably for us to feed back to you through our media officer. In relation to “It’s not okay”, there has been a lot of work done on it. It is all over social media. The same as the coercive behaviour. There was a lot of work done in relation to 2 different speakers in relation to the coercive behaviour, of which some of them have been here on the Island to speak in different forums. There was another recent event put on in Hill Street a couple of weeks ago in relation to managing all of that and speakers. The only way that we will identify that things have progressed is by the change in culture. For any type of media campaign it is about changing the culture and it is about changing people’s behaviour. That is the only way that you can assess that. In a way, that will be being able to go back to those schools and those people within those schools being able to identify that things have changed.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Thank you.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Education and health implementation. Minister, can you advise on what progress has been made on developing the core P.S.H.E. curriculum mandatory teacher training and the V.A.W.G. audit within the Jersey Schools Review Framework? Can you inform the panel when you think full implementation will be achieved?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

The recommendations regarding education, especially the P.S.H.E. curriculum and teacher training sit under the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning. Officers in Justice and Home Affairs have been in regular contact with officers in C.Y.P.E.S. (Children, Young People, Education and Skills) to have updates on the progress of these recommendations. We have been informed that in relation to the recommendations aimed at C.Y.P.E.S. around education and P.S.H.E. the non-statutory guidance for P.S.H.E. curriculum was updated and published in January 2024. This includes content such as understanding and challenging misogyny, misandry and feminism. As a result, the P.S.H.E. curriculum now has enhanced resources to encourage each school's promotion of age-appropriate education, promoting healthy relationships and attitudes, challenging harmful stereotypes and recognising and challenging violence against women and girls. Regarding the recommendations around teacher training, we have been informed by C.Y.P.E.S. that there is various training for teachers in relation to violence against women and girls. Examples include training for the P.S.H.E. leads, who have received a package of training from that association, which they are expected to disseminate within their schools.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Thank you very much. Can you advise, from your perspective, how far have routine inquiry, identification and referral improvement safety training and broader V.A.W.G. training been embedded across Primary Care, Sexual Health, Mental Health and Substance Misuse Services and what milestones remain for the rest of this year?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

The Minister for Health and Social Services agreed to an implementation plan in November 2024, with the V.A.W.G. Health Working Group being convened in February of this year. Since then, the recommendations concerning training are planned for discussion with H.C.J. (Health and Care Jersey) management to develop a common policy. To avoid an overlap in Ministerial portfolios, I would refer to the Minister for any further information. That is as much as we have at the moment. It is an ongoing project for them.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Thank you, Minister.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Can you tell the panel how victim survivors, including those from marginalised groups, are being consulted and involved in designing, delivering and evaluating the V.A.W.G. work programme?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Unfortunately, the subject matter of this work means that officers are not always able to be as close to the members of the public the policies affect and others. However, policy officers take many measures to try to breach this divide. Although not exhaustive, these include the following: regular correspondence and consultation on specific policies from specialist victim support services, who provide insight based on their own professional experience within the service's confidential means, case studies provided by specialist victim support services used to inform the implementation of multiple recommendations, including the victim migrant concession, and proposed medical pathway for non-fatal strangulation using the Violence Against Women and Girls Taskforce's report, victim survivor testimonies, as well as researching victim survivor-led advocacy groups. I do not know if you want to add anything to that, Nathan.

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

That is fair. For example, in the Criminal Justice Review, when we have our reviewer in we also have a dedicated counsellor with them to ensure the well-being of the victim survivor. I do not have anything like the skillset necessary to engage with the vulnerable person and start talking to them about what we are doing will affect their life or would have changed their experience. That is probably not a good conversation to have. We do deal, however, all the time with all the stakeholders in the area who have relationships with the victim survivors. We take input from them. As we consult on this material, especially legislation going forwards, we will be especially interested in taking their views.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Thank you. It is good to hear that, because one of my questions was going to be about trauma-informed approaches and doing no intended harm. That sounds very promising, the fact that you are already on the front foot with that and have counsellors involved with that. Have you encountered any public or private sector organisations who have been resistant or slow to progress any of the cultural change stuff around the board recommendations?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I certainly have not.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

The general message we are getting is that everybody that you are engaging with is very pro the changes that everybody has taken on board and sees the value of the recommendations and is moving forward together to deliver the recommendations of the report.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

From my perspective, nobody has negatively said anything to me about not going with the recommendations as we have agreed.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Thank you. Several of the recommendations rely on other people, companies or voluntary organisations, for example, who have got to contribute data or they are doing online harms work or specialist advocacy. What is the current status of those kind of partner-led actions? How do you monitor the progress and how do you ensure that they are following your timelines?

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

It is difficult. You do not want to enforce Government's will on a lot of these organisations, because they are independent for a very good reason. Generally speaking, nobody operating in the area of violence against women and girls wants things to be worse. Ultimately what you are doing is you are taking people down a path which they are perfectly happy to tread. People are interested in the subject and people are happy to engage in the subject. Where you have perhaps people moving at slightly different speeds, it is because some organisations are much more constrained, for instance, by statute and what they can and cannot do. Some organisations will have pre-existing resource issues. They know something should be being done but there is not the capacity available to do it. Some others will have significant arrangements around internal procedure and this kind of thing. If you look, for instance, at how J.C.I.S. staff are dealing with it, they are so constrained by their processes and by the fact that we had the relationship with the U.K. and the Common Travel Area and what they can and cannot do. If you look at what they have done so quickly and with such goodwill since the report came out, you really start to appreciate how far people are investing in this. No, I am not familiar. There is no organisation that I am aware of in the system that has come around and said: "This is all rubbish and we should not do it." There are places where people are saying: "Where is the resource coming from?" There are places where people are saying: "It is marvellous that the Government have decided I work to this legislation but this legislation does not quite suit what you are asking me." Perhaps it is a longer-term process of change, but the goodwill is there, genuinely, across the system.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

That is really good to hear. You have not had experiences of people saying: "We do not want to do it like that. We will do this but we are going to do it in our way"?

Associate Director of Justice Policy:

In respect of the wording of the taskforce report, which was primarily written by generalists, some people have said: "In my specialist area it is not quite as simple as that." However, they have never said: "And so I am going to do nothing." As you say, they say: "You might want to try doing it like this. You might want to consider doing it like that." There is genuine goodwill, even when you do not have people saying: "We can follow the letter of these recommendations."

Deputy H.M. Miles:

In terms of funding for those third-sector organisations, when they come to you and say: "We would like to do this. We would like to help you, but we cannot fund it", how do you tackle those sorts of conversations?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I have not had anybody ask me for money.

Chief Officer for Justice and Home Affairs:

No, we have not had any specific approach. This does tie into that bigger picture we talked about at the beginning in terms of community framework. There is a very small amount of money in the department for that work. It cannot fund everything and anything that anyone asks us to do. However, as we move towards that ... what you have struck on is that partnership going forward that is the bit we are developing and what is the governance and oversight of that and how is that a broader community safety approach. There will always be a bit of a difficulty in that and attention in that in terms of funding. Every Minister would always say they could do more with more funding and so would a third-sector or charitable organisation. If we can focus on making the most of what we have, that can take us some of the way there. It is possible that, as we get to the tail end of some of the harder recommendations, there will be a more crystallised position on the obvious gaps that remain and that are not resourced through already existing or creative methods. We do not see any of those yet, but it is possible that that could occur. We will have to take that when it comes.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Thank you.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Building on Helen's last questions around any potential resistance to change, we have heard from different sources that this could be a problem. It was referenced in abuse reports in the past about resistance to change among organisations and resistance to recognise a problem as well. That is definitely not something you have come across during your work?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

No, I have not had anybody come to me and be resistant to changing things. No, I have not. Sometimes, as Nathan explained, the way things can be worded or written can be: "I do not know how I can do this, but I could do it this way." I have had no resistance.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

That is good. We might have missed this question, so I will ask it now: how will the reviewer of the Family Court System be appointed independently?

[14:45]

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

I have a number of individuals who I am going to review their C.V.s (curricula vitae). I will independently meet with all of them. I have not decided if I will do that on my own or if I am going to ask somebody to do it with me. It will certainly be me and potentially one other. I will look at all of the C.V.s and then I will interview them all. Then I will make that decision as to who will be the candidate. The thing is that Jersey is not the U.K., so having an understanding of Jersey and the way it works, as well as everything else, is of benefit. It is also about the right fit of the person to us, to Jersey, which is important. There was some nervousness about the recruitment of the Criminal Justice Reviewer and about impartiality and everything else, but I have to say I met that individual personally on my own and I had no concerns whatsoever. Nathan can reiterate today that that review will be a good review.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

I look forward to that, yes.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, we all do.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

We do not have any more questions. We have finished a little bit early, so unless there is anything else you wanted to say to us.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

What I will say, which was quite valuable, is that I had an invitation to one of the schools in the last week or so. As a result of this, they were doing work within the school and they were peer to peer. That clearly is what makes a significant difference. We all have children and things and peer to peer

can have some real added value to that. That was inspiring that they have taken this upon themselves to start doing this work. Probably some of the other schools will be following suit as well, which is a real positive. The only way we change culture is through young people. When people are in later stages of life, it is much more challenging to get them to change their culture and thought processes than it is for young people. That, for me, was heartening.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Is that the children talking to each other?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Yes, doing presentations within their assemblies, peer to peer, the older ones giving their experiences and all of these sorts of things. What this report has done, along with all the education-type pieces, is it has made people stop to think and start to say: "This is what is acceptable. This is not," and then to start sharing those experiences. For me, with whatever you are looking at, if people share their experiences and they talk to each other about it, that is half the way to improving things and making it for the better.

The Connétable of Grouville:

May I ask, Minister, if that was a girls school, a boys school or a mixed school?

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

It was a girls school. It is on social media. It was a girls school. I was asked if I would go and see them and I did. I was inspired by it. Others are probably doing similar things. That, to me, is what is significant about this kind of piece of work. It is about changing culture across the piece and culture changes ... I always feel that the younger people start to influence and that is a good thing.

The Connétable of Grouville:

Very good.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Yes, really good. Thank you very much everyone.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs:

Thank you.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

That is it for us. It was really interesting, thank you.

[14:50]