

**REPLY BY THE VICE PRESIDENT OF  
THE COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE  
TO QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 14 OF THE  
RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY P J ROFFEY**

- 1. Now that consultants have identified possible savings of £600,000 per year by the merger of Guernsey's Fire Brigade and Road Ambulance Service will the Committee for Health and Social Care work together with the Committee for Home Affairs on an urgent review of this possibility?**

The Committee for Health & Social Care (CHSC) have noted with interest the "PWC Costing, benchmarking and prioritisation- Report: Committees for Home Affairs and Education," in particular the suggested amalgamation of the Guernsey Fire & Rescue Service and the road ambulance service. The CHSC was not involved in preparation of the PWC Report and has requested further information from the Policy & Resources Committee in respect of financial arguments for any such change.

Before receiving and considering the requested information from Policy & Resources Committee, it would be premature for CHSC to comment on the merits of any possible amalgamation. However, in broad terms should there be sufficient evidence to indicate that such a change would be financially beneficial and deliverable in a way which would not adversely impact service delivery or impose substantial risk, the CHSC would be happy to consider such change.

The CHSC would however caution that a Fully Integrated Fire & Ambulance Service option was considered as part of the February 2016 Policy Letter (Article 16 Ambulance Service, Billet d'Etat III of 2016) and was not considered appropriate at that time. The Steering Group noted a number potential risks and cautioned against Guernsey pioneering an integrated Service, given that currently-accepted regulatory working practice standards would need to be redesigned in Guernsey first, probably at disproportionate effort and cost. The CHSC looks forward to reviewing the financial figures underpinning the PWC Report to see if the case for an integrated service is now made out.

While resolution 1 of Article 16 Ambulance Service, Billet d'Etat III of 2016 has been rescinded (regarding the transfer of budgetary and non clinical oversight for the Emergency Ambulance Service to Home Affairs), resolution 2 remains and CHSC is committed to its discharge, including fully evaluating the possible colocation of the Emergency Ambulance Base from St John's Rohais location with the Fire Service.

The CHSC is committed to a programme of thinking differently and working differently, and will be presenting a Policy Letter to the Assembly in November on its transformation programme. Subject to the Assembly's commitment to the need for change within the health and social care system, the road ambulance and patient transfer service will be critical elements for consideration as part of the detailed design of any future operating

model and the Committee welcomes opportunity to ensure that the model for ambulance services works both now and into the future. Through the working party, all opportunities for the transformation of services including closer integration and colocation with Fire and Rescue will be considered in due course however for such work to be effective and successful it is extremely important work is carefully sequenced and coordinated in the context of the wider target operating model work. This will include consideration both of the 2016 Policy Letter and the earlier Lightfoot report from 2013 so to ensure the best use of resources.

**2. Will the Committee *for* Health and Social Care further agree to report to the States, ideally jointly with the Committee *for* Home Affairs, on the cases for and against such a merger together with their recommendations thereon?**

Should the CHSC consider that the evidence for a merger is sufficiently persuasive so to enable an evidence based case to be made to the Assembly to amend the February 2016 resolution, the CHSC would, of course, seek to return to the States. Should this be the case, the CHSC would seek to work closely with the Committee *for* Home Affairs in the preparation of the Policy Letter.

The cost of preparing this response has been calculated at approximately £300.