

REPLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE TO
QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 14 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE BY
ALDERNEY REPRESENTATIVE ALEX SNOWDON

Question 1

The President of the Policy & Resources Committee has indicated that the Committee does not consider that the Alderney - Southampton Route is a lifeline route which should be subsidised by the States of Guernsey. Can the President of the Policy & Resources Committee indicate whether the Policy & Resources Committee has made any decision to withdraw support for funding the Alderney - Southampton Route and, if they have, when that decision was taken and what consultation and assessment of impact was carried out to inform that decision? If a decision has not been taken, could he please indicate when the Committee intends to take such a decision and what consultation and impact assessments will be carried out to inform that decision?

Answer

In July 2018 the States of Deliberation approved the Committee for Economic Development policy letter Review of Air Transport Licensing policy letter from Billet XIX of 2018. That policy letter designated the Guernsey-London Gatwick and Guernsey-Alderney routes as lifeline links. The States of Guernsey's Transport Licensing Authority does not licence Alderney air links other than the link to Guernsey.

The Committee received the observations and recommendations of the Committee for Economic Development in November 2019. That letter referred to the views of States of Alderney representatives who attended a meeting with members of the Committee for Economic Development in Alderney on 12 November.

After considering the observations and recommendation, the Committee has directed its officers to undertake further work to secure the best possible outcome in response to the tender process.

Question 2

Could the President of Policy and Resources explain in detail what work the Committee is carrying out which is delaying their decision about the PSO, and give estimates about when that work will be completed. Could he explain precisely how he thinks the work they are carrying out will result in a better decision?

Answer

The tendering process always incorporated a period for the Policy & Resources Committee to consider the outputs from the process. The delay is because, in effect, two tendering processes were carried out after the first process did not provide a satisfactory potential outcome.

Officers are analysing the submissions that have come back from bidders, to ensure the best possible balance of service level frequency, operational resilience and cost to the tax payer. This will involve financial and operational modelling. The information will enable the Committee to make a fully informed decision, taking into account all factors that have arisen throughout the tender process. The final recommendation will be put to the States of Deliberation.

Alderney's air links are not a transferred service under the 1948 agreement. The responsibility for funding them does not therefore lie with the States of Guernsey (albeit in recent years by default funding has been provided as a result of the States of Guernsey providing funding to Aurigny).

The Public Service Obligation tendering process should identify the level of publicly funded support required to enable the air links to be provided. A decision will then be needed as to the source of any funding.