

**REPLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE COMMITTEE FOR HOME AFFAIRS  
TO QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 14 OF THE  
RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY L C QUERPEL**

- 1. Are you able please to give me an update on the progress your committee has made in pursuit of the recommendations made by Kathleen Marshall, that are relevant to the services provided under your mandate?**

The Committee *for* Home Affairs (“the Committee”) is mandated to oversee the delivery of the Family Proceedings Advisory Service (“FPAS”). There were 9 specific recommendations for FPAS in the 2015 Report by Kathleen Marshall “the Marshall Report”. In addition, recommendations 20 and 21 involving court rules and an independent complaints mechanism were also relevant to the FPAS. An action plan was created to implement the recommendations and the Committee monitored progress against the action plan. The action plan has been completed.

As a result of recommendation 4 of the Marshall Report, the Committee commissioned Ofsted to conduct an inspection of FPAS in 2017 and the Marshall Report recommendations were largely completed prior to the Ofsted inspection which took place in October 2017.

Recommendation 5 of the Marshall Report was considered both as part of a full priority based budgeting exercise undertaken by the Committee in 2017 - which noted that there was “significant pressure on the Service” and in light of recommendations made by the Ofsted inspection.

The Ofsted report, which was received in November 2017, provided a clear roadmap for suggested change. An action plan to address the recommendations in the Ofsted report was approved by the Committee and formed the delivery plan for FPAS for 2018 - 2020. Steady progress is being made in all areas and the Committee monitors progress against the action plan.

- 2. If there are recommendations relevant to your committee’s mandate that you haven’t been able to pursue, then can you tell me please why you weren’t able to pursue them?**

The Committee has pursued all nine of the specific recommendations for FPAS. However it is noted that recommendation 6: “Consideration should be given to providing legal aid for mediation by suitably trained Advocates in appropriate circumstances”, was considered separately by the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security given its responsibility for Legal Aid.

- 3. I’m aware that you will be passing a Handover Report on to the committee that succeeds your committee after the forthcoming General Election, therefore in relation to that, can you tell me please whether or not you will be advising your successors, in that Handover Report, to pursue the**

**recommendations you haven't been able to pursue?**

Given that there are no recommendations in the Marshall Report relevant to the Committee's mandate that it has not been able to pursue, there is no reference to the Marshall Report in the Committee's Handover Report.