

**REPLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF
THE COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION, SPORT & CULTURE
TO QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 14 OF THE RULES OF
PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY DUDLEY-OWEN**

Pre-amble:

The Policy & Resources Committee commissioned a series of independent Good Governance Reviews to be undertaken for States of Guernsey Committees. The Good Governance Review for the Committee for Education Sport & Culture remains unpublished to date.

According to a response dated 4th June 2020 to an Access to Public Information request from Deputy Neil Inder, the Policy & Resources Committee have stated that “The Good Governance Review into the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture is yet to be finalised and this work has been interrupted by the urgent need to respond to the coronavirus pandemic in the first part of this year.”, furthermore that “The Committee does intend for this review to be completed and published.”

Question 1

On what date did the Good Governance Review commence?

Answer

The Policy & Resources Committee (P&RC) wrote to the Committee *for* Education Sport & Culture (CfESC) on 29th October 2019 confirming that as the P&RC Governance Review was nearing completion, the CfESC would be the next committee to participate in a Governance Review. The Committee discussed P&RC’s letter when it met on 1st November 2019 and immediately thereafter commenced the review process.

The process included one-to-one interviews with all Committee members (save for one Member who provided a written response), and with a number of senior officials who work, or had recently worked, in Education Sport & Culture. Professor Staite also held two workshops, one with officials and the other with the Committee (save for one Member), where attendees were encouraged to participate openly and with candour.

Question 2

On what date was a draft of the Good Governance Review first presented to the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture (“the Committee”)?

Answer

Professor Staite shared her initial findings at a third workshop attended by both the Committee (save for one Member) and officials on 20th January 2020 and the draft report was circulated to all interviewees on 17th February 2020.

Question 3

Has the Committee met to consider the Good Governance Review and if so what comments have the Committee made about that report?

Answer

The draft report was circulated to all those interviewed as part of the Governance Review explicitly for their feedback and, yes, the Committee met to discuss it. Members provided comments in a limited number of areas where they felt the draft report required correction or clarification, as per the Professor Staite's invitation for feedback.

Question 4

If the Committee has not met to discuss the Good Governance Review, why has the matter not been prioritised considering questions arising in 2019 over the recruitment practice to specific high level roles within Education services?

Answer

See the reply to question 3.

Question 5

If the Committee has considered the Good Governance Review have the Committee requested that any revisions are made to the report and what is the nature of these revisions, i.e. factual accuracy or subjective comment? Please explain.

Answer

See the reply to question 2. For clarification, the limited revisions proposed included both factual accuracy corrections and objective comments.

Question 6

When will the Committee return the completed Good Governance Review for presentation to the Policy & Resources Committee for them to publish the same?

Answer

Both Committees are in receipt of the final report which, allowing time for final proof reading, will be published by the end of this week.

Question 7

Does the Committee want to see the Good Governance Review published before the end of the term and if so what representations have they made to the Policy & Resources Committee to try to ensure that this will happen?

Answer

See the reply to question 6.

Question 8

If delays are with the Policy & Resources Committee, why is it that questions have not been asked in the States of Guernsey by the Committee, for oral response so as to keep all States members and the wider community updated on progress with this most important review?

Answer

There are no delays further to the delay caused by the need to prioritise work related to the Island's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee understands that even with this delay the total timeframe of the Review, from its commencement to report publication, is similar to that of the other Governance Reviews that Professor Staite has undertaken.

Date of receipt of the Question: 21st July 2020

Date of Reply: 27th July 2020