

**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 PETER ROFFEY**

Question 1

During oral questions at the December States Meeting the ESC president said the committee felt it wise to broaden out the scope of the current review of secondary school models to include additional models to those identified in the scoping document approved by the States in March 2020. Please can the committee tell me which additional models are now being considered and confirm that all of those models specified in the original states instruction remain part of the review?

Answer

The work that commenced under the direction of the previous Committee *for Education, Sport & Culture* has been very useful to inform the direction of the new Committee, especially the feedback gathered from the staff engagement sessions. This work included the models identified in the Resolutions of the States following debate in March 2020. The Committee has already confirmed that it intends to broaden the review that it now owns, benchmarking models against the current 4-school model as it considers this to be a more realistic comparator against which to make the case for change.

The Committee will also continue to develop costings for a model of 3 x 11-16 schools and a co-located 6th form as introduced into the review by the previous Committee after the March 2020 Resolutions; however, this is primarily for comparison purposes as the Committee has questions around the equity of such a model.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Committee has not introduced any further models, but is re-working models having reviewed cost drivers given the current economic climate.

Question 2

Can ESC confirm that Advocate Peter Harwood has been retained as the independent overseer of the review?

Answer

At this stage of the review of secondary education models, Advocate Harwood continues to hold the position of independent overseer. He has not played such an active role since the election because the Committee has largely focused on spending time not only understanding the extensive work carried out before we were elected, but also considering what direction we want to take, as we rightfully need to take ownership of it. This is work which Advocate Harwood has already been involved with through his oversight role.

We recognise much has changed since Advocate Harwood kindly agreed to take on the role of independent overseer as appointed by the previous Committee, so we are discussing with him our plans for the final stages of the review.

As the Committee understands it, the independent overseer role was considered essential by the previous Committee to help reassure the community of its objectivity after work on its preferred two-school model was paused. Things have changed since then, so it is entirely appropriate that we take time to consider and discuss all elements of the review with Advocate Harwood before coming to an agreement on the best way forward.

Question 3

If the answer to question 2 is “no” then why not and who has replaced him?

Answer

Please see the answer to 2 above.

Question 4

If the answer to question 2 is “yes” can ESC assure me that as independent overseer Advocate Harwood will be invited to every committee meeting, sub-committee meeting, briefing, workshop and the like at which the review is discussed?

Answer

Please see the answer to 2 above.

Question 5

Please will the committee tell me how it intends to proceed with the long overdue review of Guernsey’s grossly outdated education law, given that at the end of the last political term a policy letter was virtually ready to be submitted to the States on the subject?

Answer

Thus far in the new political term, the Committee has focused its attention on a general Education, Sport & Culture induction process which is both necessary and appropriate, especially given that four of the five voting Members are new Deputies. Insofar as more detailed subject-specific inductions and briefings are concerned, the Committee has focused its attention on the Secondary Review and The Guernsey Institute, alongside gaining a detailed understanding of the various component parts of a high-quality education ‘eco-system’. It is as a direct result of this work that the Committee has been able to determine its strategic priorities. The Committee will next turn its attention to the Education Law Review and an introductory briefing has been scheduled. Amongst other things, this briefing will expand upon the various drivers for change, one of which is alluded to in your question. It is only after this introductory briefing that the Committee will be able to confirm how it intends to proceed. The Committee will be pleased to provide a further update after it has had time to reflect on that briefing.

Date of receipt of the Question: 29th December 2020

Date of Reply: 12th January 2021