

**Response to a Question Pursuant to Rule 14
of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees**

Subject: Visit of British Lions' coach

States' Member: Deputy St Pier

Date received: 26th April 2021

Questions

I warmly welcome and strongly endorse the States' active support for the exploration of the opportunity for the island to host a British Lions' training camp this summer and regret that the Lions have decided not to come to the island on this occasion.

The government's communication of its involvement with this initiative was poor, by its own admission, having been reactive, slow and piecemeal. Unfortunately, this response divided and polarised many in the community. If unaddressed, this may risk the widespread public support for and compliance with public health regulations and advice, which has been a hallmark of the Bailiwick's management of the COVID-19 pandemic and remains vital, particularly if a third lockdown should become necessary.

In the absence of a clear, proactive statement from government providing full disclosure, in order to bring transparency, closure and to heal the division created, I have the following questions in relation to Mr Gatland's visit to the island over Easter:

1. For the avoidance of doubt (and for the benefit of the wider community's understanding of the decision-making process,) specifically, under which Regulation(s) of The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No. 4) Regulations, 2021 was the visit approved?
2. Please provide any itinerary received in respect of Mr Gatland's visit.
3. What, if any, expenses were incurred directly or indirectly by the States in facilitating and supporting Mr Gatland's visit?
4. The media release of 7th April refers to the meeting at Foote's Lane being a 'small number of people in a large room': how many people were present?
5. The media release of 7th April refers to the private dinner at the St. Pierre Park Hotel as being a 'small number of guests':
 - a. How many people were present?
 - b. Can you confirm that the private dining room had been agreed in advance as a 'defined and agreed location,' as was the description applied in the same media release to that at Foote's Lane?

- c. Was the private dinner provided for in the original self-isolation order, or did the Medical Officer of Health vary orally or in writing the terms of the self-isolation order to allow this hospitality to take place before it was held?
6. For the avoidance of doubt, please list all meetings with Mr Gatland and their locations at which any public servants were present (whether in an official, private or other capacity) and the identity of any such public servants present at each meeting, including Deputy Peter Ferbrache, Paul Whitfield and Dr Nicola Brink.
7. The media release of 7th April says that there was 'no risk of infection' and 'there was no public health risk.' Previous public health advice has been clear that the risk in relation to coronavirus can be mitigated rather than eliminated, so is the media release inaccurate in this regard?

Response

1. The variation to the self-isolation requirements was made by the Medical Officer of Health under her powers in Regulation 6(3) of the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (No. 4) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2021.
2. In line with the requirements for other similar variations approved by the Medical Officer of Health there was no requirement to provide a detailed itinerary. The approved variation was based on the meeting venues which Mr Gatland was authorised to visit during his stay and the testing regime for Mr Gatland whilst in Guernsey. The venues were limited to the Guernsey Rugby Club facilities at Footes Lane and the St Pierre Park Hotel.
3. No expenses were incurred directly or indirectly by the States in facilitating and supporting Mr Gatland's visit.
4. Mr Gatland plus 10 people representing the States of Guernsey (Public Health and in respect of States' owned sports facilities and venues) and possible sponsors.
5.
 - (a) Mr Gatland with 9 representatives from the Guernsey rugby community and the Chief Executive for the States of Guernsey to provide continuity;
 - (b) yes, it had been agreed in advance and as part of the original variation;
 - (c) the private dinner at St Pierre Park was approved in writing as part of the original approval, subject to it being hosted in a large private and well-ventilated room within the hotel.
6. Deputy Peter Ferbrache, the Chief Executive, the Medical Officer of Health, the Director of Sports & Culture and the Director of Operations for Education, Sport & Culture attended the lunchtime meeting at the Rugby Club when sandwiches were provided; the Chief Executive, as agreed attended the dinner at the St Pierre Park Hotel to provide continuity from the States of Guernsey.
7. The Authority is very clear that the risk to human welfare the coronavirus presents can only be mitigated and not eliminated. However, strict adherence to the

protocols (i.e. the method statement prepared by Public Health for such variations) applied to every decision to vary the self-isolation requirements can mitigate the risks to a level where the risk is negligible. The Authority is satisfied that the method statement for the visit was strictly followed and so the risk of infection and any wider public health risk was mitigated to such an extent that the statements made in the press release of 7th April 2021 were accurate.

Deputy Peter Ferbrache
Chairman
Civil Contingencies Authority

12th May 2021