

**REPLY BY THE CHAIRMAN OF  
THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE  
TO A QUESTION ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE  
RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY LESTER C. QUERIPEL**

**Preamble**

*Parts (a) (i) and (ii) of the Public Accounts Committee mandate, reads as follows:*

*(a) (i) To ensure that proper scrutiny is given to the States' assets, expenditure and revenues to ensure that States' bodies operate to the highest standards in the management of their financial affairs.*

*(ii) To examine whether public funds have been applied for the purposes intended by the States and that extravagance and waste are eradicated.*

*My great fear as a politician is that the Financial Transformation Programme team, have now undertaken the majority of those responsibilities, rendering the role of the Public Accounts Committee ineffective, in relation to parts (a) (i) and (ii) of their own mandate. Also, I have very real concerns that 'duplication of effort' may now be occurring due to the FTP team, and PAC, undertaking the same research into where 'efficiency savings' can be made within every department of the States. Therefore, I would like to proffer the following questions to Deputy Soulsby, in her capacity as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.*

**Question 1**

*Can the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee please assure me that 'duplication of effort' is not taking place between her committee, and the Financial Transformation Programme team, as regards identifying where 'efficiency savings' can be made within States departments?*

**Answer**

The Financial Transformation Programme (FTP) is a Government initiative with the stated aim to provide 'an environment where Islanders can be confident that the right public services are efficiently delivered and represent value for money'. Its operations are structured into 4 sub-programmes, as follows;

- Departmental Portfolio Management Board – to maximise FTP benefits by working with Departments to make certain they are investing in the right projects and implementing them correctly
- Income, Procurement and Property - to deliver a series of defined infrastructure, income generation and procurement initiatives in order to maximise savings
- Building Business Excellence - to develop and implement a single integrated approach to business and financial planning, reporting and performance management, across the public sector in Guernsey
- Transforming Support Services - to develop and implement a strategy and operational structure for support services that is capable of optimising the release of cashable savings whilst enabling the delivery of customer focussed support services to the Public Sector.

I can therefore assure you that there is no duplication of effort between the role of the FTP and the role of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in identifying where 'efficiency

savings' can be made within States Departments. The PAC, as is well known, has scarce resources, and these are managed very carefully to ensure the Committee is focussed on material matters that are likely to be of concern to both the States of Deliberation and the people of Guernsey.

## **Question 2**

*Can the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee please explain the fundamental difference between the role of the FTP team, and the role of PAC in relation to points (a) (i) and (ii) of the PAC mandate?*

## **Answer**

As stated above, the fundamental difference between the role of the FTP and the role of PAC is that the FTP is a Government initiative aimed at improving the operational delivery of specific areas of Government activity. It has identified a number of different areas upon which to focus its activity such as streamlining the delivery of back office support to the public sector in Guernsey with projects such as the Shared Transaction Services Centre (STSC).

The PAC is independent of Government and has a mandate to ensure proper scrutiny of all the financial affairs of the States and that all States' bodies operate to the highest standards in financial matters. It is also mandated to ensure that any extravagance and waste are eradicated and to ensure public funds have been used for the purposes intended by the States.

Therefore, whilst the PAC will welcome Government claims that the aim of the FTP is to provide effective delivery of value for money services, it is for it, on behalf of the public, to consider through independent scrutiny, whether these claims match reality.

**Date of Receipt of the Question:** 14<sup>th</sup> December 2012

**Date of Reply:** 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013