

**REPLY BY THE MINISTER OF THE  
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
TO A QUESTION ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE  
RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY M. J. FALLAIZE**

**Question 1**

*“May I respectfully request that your Department lays before the States of Deliberation as soon as practicable (i.e. at the April, 2013 meeting of the States of Deliberation) a States Report incorporating the full text of the 113<sup>th</sup> annual report of the Medical Officer of Health?”*

**Answer**

This matter was discussed by my Board on Tuesday 22 January 2013 and it was agreed that the Department intends to prepare a short States Report, which will include the 113<sup>th</sup> Medical Officer of Health Report (the MOH Report) as an appendix and ask that the MOH Report be noted.

It is noted that Monday 4 February 2013 is the closing date for the submission of States Reports to the April 2013 States meeting. Our next Board meeting is on Wednesday 6 February 2013, so the earliest that the States Report can be debated will be at the May 2013 States meeting.

**Question 2**

*“In the event that your Department is prepared to acquiesce to the request in question one, please would you confirm that the States Report will be submitted for debate and not as an appendix to the Billet d’État and will not be submitted in accordance with Rule 12 (4) of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation?”*

**Answer**

As mentioned in answer 1 above, the Department will submit the MOH Report as an appendix to a States Report and not an appendix to the Billet d’État.

The 113<sup>th</sup> MOH Report is an independent report and not HSSD’s report. The HSSD Board is of the opinion that the integrity and independence of the Medical Officer of Health report must be safeguarded and not jeopardised by submitting his report to the States. As Rule 12 (4) states ‘...the understanding that if the propositions are accepted, the Department or Committee would return with detailed proposals...’ and the Department does not intend to return to the States of Deliberation with detailed proposals, the HSSD will not submit it under Rule 12(4). However, when the MOH Report is debated, it will be explained that submission of the MOH Report for debate does not mean that the HSSD Board supports or disagrees with any of the recommendations.

**Date of Receipt of the Question:** 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013

**Date of Reply:** 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013