

## **Billet d'État X, 2014**

### **Addendum**

Item 15: “Education Department – The Introduction of a Universal Entitlement to Pre-School Education”

**Pages 1127a and 1127b: Please note that these pages were omitted in error from the Billet.**

**SOCIAL SECURITY**

A STATES OF GUERNSEY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT

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Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Date: 19 March 2014

Dear Deputy ~~Sillars~~**The Introduction of a Universal Entitlement to Pre-School Education**

Thank you for inviting the Social Security Department ('the Department') to comment on the above States report which is due to be debated at the May 2014 States meeting.

The Department considered the report at its meeting on 18 March 2014.

The provision of pre-school education is of particular relevance to the Department's customers who have childcare responsibilities and limited financial means in terms of helping them to return to work or training while continuing to care for their children.

However, while the Department is broadly supportive of the general principles of pre-school education, it believes that this should be delivered in a targeted manner at those families who have limited financial means. The concept of universal entitlement to what is currently a paid for service gave Members cause for concern given the fact that other universal benefits for working-age people are currently under review within the Personal Tax, Pensions and Benefits Review (PTR). Members would urge the Education Department to consider the report's recommendations within the context of the PTR proposals to ensure that the States adopts a consistent approach to universal entitlements.

Members discussed the Quality Standard Framework outlined in the report and commented that the adoption of such a Framework should be proportional, fit for purpose in Guernsey and not detrimental to the current service provision.

Finally, Members noted that the Education Department will return to the States with detailed proposals for viable funding options. The report refers to two pre-schools in Guernsey which are currently supported by the Department by means of a charitable grant. The Department is authorised to make these grants by States Resolution (No. III of Billet d'État VII, 1987 and No. XIV of Billet d'État I, 1993) and Members requested that the Education Department give proper consideration to the status and coverage of these grants when it comes to consider the funding options for the provision of pre-school education.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allister Langlois". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

A H Langlois  
Minister