

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN ADDITION FOR 2017 – 2019 (P.68/2016) –FOURTH AMENDMENT

**Lodged au Greffe on 12th September 2016
by Deputy J.A.N. Le Fondré of St. Lawrence**

STATES GREFFE

DRAFT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN ADDITION FOR 2017 – 2019
(P.68/2016) – FOURTH AMENDMENT

PARAGRAPH (a)(i) –

After the words “**Summary Table B**”, insert the words “save that, in relation to the Education Department’s provision for user pays in **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2**, the introduction of Nursery Education Fund means-testing shall apply in respect of all providers of such education,”.

DEPUTY J.A.N. LE FONDRÉ OF ST. LAWRENCE

REPORT

The debate held in June of this year on Nursery Education Funding ([P.39/2016](#) – Nursery funding: implementation of proposed changes) covered a variety of matters in this area.

However, one matter raised by a number of Members, including myself, was the discriminatory nature of the proposed introduction of means-testing.

At the time, the Minister seemed to be of the view that it was entirely appropriate that the Government should discriminate against private nursery providers by only means-testing parents who used their services, and not means-testing parents who used services provided by States-run nurseries.

This has to be blatantly unfair.

Irrespective of views on means-testing (which now seems to have been endorsed by the Assembly as a result of the debate on P.39/2016), if it is to be implemented, it must be implemented on an even-handed basis. It cannot be fair that parents will be means-tested if they send their child to a particular provider of nursery education, but those same parents will **not** be means-tested if they send their child to a different provider (run by the Government).

This proposition seeks purely to set the principle that if means-testing is introduced for nursery education, it is applied in respect of ALL providers of such education.

I hope Members will be supportive of this very important principle.

Financial and manpower implications

Manpower implications

The Education Department have suggested that their original proposals could be accommodated within existing staff arrangements; however, in their response to me for the financial implications they have indicated that the figures they have calculated assume that an additional member of staff would be required should this amendment be adopted.

Financial implications

If adopted, this amendment will increase the figures (i.e. raise additional funds) included on page 148 of the MTFP as follows⁽¹⁾:

	Original amounts per MTFP	Increase	Revised Amount
	£'000	£'000	£'000
2017	260	92	352
2018	260	75	335
2019	467	97	564

(1) Figures provided by the Education Department