

STATES OF JERSEY



UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: COMPLIANCE OF DRAFT LAWS AND TRAINING OF STATES OF JERSEY EMPLOYEES (P.63/2017) – AMENDMENT

Lodged au Greffe on 19th September 2017
by Deputy L.M.C. Doublet of St. Saviour

STATES GREFFE

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD:
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1 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (a) –

After the words “legislative changes” insert the words “, in conjunction with the Children’s Commissioner.”.

2 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (b) –

Re-designate paragraph (b) as paragraph (a) and paragraph (a) as paragraph (b); after the words “to consider” insert the words “, in conjunction with the Children’s Commissioner.”; and for the words “31st December 2017” substitute the words “10th April 2018”.

3 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (c) –

After the words “to ensure” insert the words “in conjunction with the Children’s Commissioner”.

DEPUTY L.M.C. DOUBLET OF ST. SAVIOUR

REPORT

Following a meeting with the Chief Minister, I am proposing amendments to take on board matters raised in our discussions. The main purpose of these amendments is –

- to take account of the impending recruitment of the Children’s Commissioner and enable the Chief Minister to work in conjunction with the person who takes up that role. I have thus added a reference in each part of the proposition; and
- as the Commissioner may not be in post until January 2018, to provide more time to carry out the work requested by this proposition. Therefore, after seeking officer advice, I have amended the date by which the Chief Minister should report back to the Assembly from 31st December 2017, to 10th April 2018. This is the final States sitting of this term of office and is thus the maximum amount of time available. It is my hope that the new Chief Minister will be able to use the report to make decisions on when and how to bring forward the legislative changes which will fully incorporate the UNCRC into our legislation.

The UNCRC was extended to Jersey in 2014, at which time it was said that “the extension of the UNCRC commits the States of Jersey to protecting and upholding children’s rights and to being assessed by the United Nations on its progress”. The Chief Minister said “Extension of the Convention provides the States of Jersey with a framework within which we can consider the extent to which our laws, policies and services protect and empower children and young people” (States of Jersey press release, 24th June 2014, <https://www.gov.je/News/2014/Pages/UNHCRChildRights.aspx>). The proposition, as amended, in conjunction with the views and expertise of the incoming Children’s Commissioner, will give effect to the Chief Minister’s commitment to ensure that all of our laws protect and empower children and young people.

Financial and manpower implications

There are no financial or manpower costs arising from this amendment.