

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
BY SENATOR T.A. VALLOIS
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 12th JULY 2021
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 19th JULY 2021**

Question

“Will the Minister advise whether Government officers will be appointed as Planning Inspectors for the Island Plan; and will he further advise whether, as a matter of policy, Government officers may be appointed as Planning Inspectors for any planning application and, if so, how conflicts of interest are considered in such circumstances and whether any consideration will be given to the appointment of such officers as Planning Inspectors in respect of the planning application for the Hospital?”

Answer

As required to do so by law, the Minister has already announced the appointment of independent planning inspectors to carry out an examination in public of the draft bridging Island Plan¹.

Following a tender process, UK company ‘Intelligent Plans and Examinations Ltd’, have been awarded the contract to undertake this work, and the following inspectors have been appointed:

- Lead Inspector – Keith Holland BA (Hons) Dip TP MRTPI ARICS
- Assistant Principal Inspector - Geoff Salter BA MRTPI
- Assistant Senior Inspector - Derek Stebbing BA (Hons) DipEP MRTPI

None of these inspectors are States’ employees.

It is a matter of law that inspectors appointed to conduct public inquiries or to consider appeals against certain decisions made under the auspices of the Planning and Building (Jersey) Law are States’ employees, as set out in Article 107:

107 Appointment of inspectors^[254]

- (1) There shall be appointed as States employees such number of persons as the States may direct being persons who are, to the satisfaction of the Jersey Appointments Commission, capable of acting and willing to act as inspectors for the purposes of this Part.
- (2) Appointments under paragraph (1) shall be made by the Minister following recommendations made for the purpose by the Jersey Appointments Commission.
- (3) The list of persons so appointed shall be made available for public inspection at all reasonable hours.

As required by the law, those persons appointed as inspectors to deal with public inquiries or planning appeals must be capable of acting as such, as assessed by the Jersey Appointments Commission.

¹ See news release of 08 April 2021: <https://www.gov.je/News/2021/Pages/PlanningInspectorsIslandPlan.aspx>