

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY, 21st JANUARY 2003
BY DEPUTY M.F. DUBRAS OF ST. LAWRENCE**

Question

- (a) Would the President indicate when members will be receiving an unabridged version of the Health Care Funding Review?
- (b) Would the President explain why members have not received a copy of this report given that it was quoted during the Budget debate?

Answer

- (a) The Health Care Funding Review was jointly commissioned by three Committees: Health and Social Services, Employment and Social Security and Finance and Economics. The publication of the report is therefore an issue for all three Committees, not just Health and Social Services. The three Committees were due to receive a presentation of the report by its author late last year. Unfortunately this presentation was cancelled due to inclement weather preventing his arrival in the island. A re-arranged joint meeting is due to be held early in February 2003. It is expected that the Committees will form an initial view of the report at that stage and publish it shortly thereafter. The Presidents of the Finance and Economics, and the Employment and Social Security Committees would prefer the publication of the report to occur after the three Committees have received the presentation.
- (b) The Health and Social Services Committee has, by some margin, the largest budget of any States department. Against this background it would be somewhat strange if no reference were to be made, in a budget debate, to a report that dealt with the issue of future health care funding. As explained in the previous answer, the review was commissioned by three Committees so any decision as to its distribution cannot be mine alone. For my part I am more than happy for any member to have a copy of the report, but they will also need to secure the agreement of the Presidents of the Finance and Economics and Employment and Social Security Committees.