

2.17 Deputy J.A. Martin of the Chief Minister regarding the extension of the consultation on Imagine Jersey 2035:

On 4th December 2007 the Chief Minister stated that it would not be a problem to extend the consultation on Imagine Jersey 2035, but he has subsequently informed the Scrutiny Panel that, and I quote from an email, Sir: "There is a real problem with extending which I was not aware of." Will the Chief Minister explain why this situation has changed?

Senator F.H. Walker (The Chief Minister):

I am slightly surprised that the Deputy is asking this question because my understanding is that the issue has been resolved to the satisfaction of Scrutiny. In December the Council of Ministers considered a formal request from the President of the Chairmen's Committee to extend the deadline until the beginning of April to enable Panels to: "Give more serious consideration to the issue." While the Council of Ministers agreed that it wished to produce a report on the consultation process by the end of February as planned, it recognised the need to build the insufficient opportunity for Scrutiny to contribute constructively. It therefore agreed to extend the overall consultation process until the end of March to allow Scrutiny Panels and other interested parties more time. This decision was communicated to the President of the Chairmen's Committee on 18th December who expressed her contentment with it.

2.17.1 Deputy J.A. Martin:

I would just like to thank the Minister for the extension. I am just wondering that if at the time he had had sight of Corporate Management Board's minutes he would have known of the real problem on the day when he promised he could deliver the extension in the first place?

The Deputy Bailiff:

We seem to have come full circle, I think, in these type of...

2.17.2 Deputy S.C. Ferguson of St. Brelade:

I would just like the Chief Minister to confirm that he did send an email correspondence, which I did have circulated to the rest of the members of the Chairmen's Committee, and there were no screams, so we assumed that the extension was in order. I would like him just to confirm that he did confirm the end of March to allow Scrutiny more time.

Senator F.H. Walker:

Yes, I absolutely do confirm that point.