

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 12th OCTOBER 2010**

Question

Will the Chief Minister confirm that the initial terms of the Voluntary Redundancy (VR) agreement proposed by the States Employment Board to be put in place on 1st January 2011 are significantly reduced from the current agreement?

Will he further state why the representatives of States employees have been given only 3 weeks to respond to this major change to terms and conditions and why the terms are merely open to consultation and not to a full negotiation process?

Answer

I can confirm that the Voluntary Redundancy (VR) terms proposed from 1st January 2011 are significantly reduced from the current terms. The current terms are no longer affordable and are significantly in excess of redundancy terms offered in the local private sector, both for voluntary and compulsory redundancies.

The States Employment Board wants the new terms to be effective from January 2011. The SEB set policy and as such, the setting of VR terms have never been subject to negotiation with any pay group. Clearly there is a need to consult, which will take place over a three month period (not three weeks as the Deputy suggests) and the SEB will consider any representations made by the staff side representatives and unions in making their final decision.