

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY T.A. MCDONALD OF ST. SAVIOUR
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 28th APRIL 2015**

Question

Will the Chief Minister advise –

1. Whether he has, over the past 12 to 24 months, personally received several individual complaints from members of the public in writing and in person, and also from States members, past and present, in meetings with the Chief Executive, regarding alleged harassment, misconduct, and numerous *ultra vires* actions against these individuals by States of Jersey employees and Executive Officers based within the Environment Department;
2. Whether, given the number of complaints received, and that they are in the same context, of the same nature, and do not appear to be individual grievances, it was appropriate for these complaints to be passed on to the individuals that they may have been about, or to the person who is responsible for the alleged action;
3. Whether, in view of concerns raised by former States members with reference to the Committee of Enquiry in 2011, the Chief Minister believes that he is conflicted on the current issues, given his chairmanship of the States Employment Board?

Answer

- 1 I have, in the past, received individual complaints and representation from States Members on a number of matters concerning officers in the Environment Department. In matters that refer to planning applications, or where the matter could be subject to enforcement proceedings and subsequent Court action, I do not interfere until all avenues have been fully exhausted.
- 2 Where matters refer to specific individuals, I seek all materials relating to the case from the relevant department and from the person making the complaint, as well as any evidence about the allegations.
- 3 I do not believe that I am conflicted in my capacity as Chairman of the States Employment Board. On the contrary, the States Employment Board is the employer under the Employment of States of Jersey Employees (Jersey) Law 2005. It is the responsibility of the States Employment Board to ensure that any complaints are appropriately investigated at the right time and that those investigations are undertaken in accordance with the States Employment Board policy.