

2017.11.27

3.4 Deputy J.M. Maçon of the Chief Minister regarding consultation on proposals in respect of student finance: [1(616)]

As Chairman of the Student Financing Sub-Committee, will the Chief Minister explain what has happened to the consultation on proposals in respect of student finance, which was due to be published mid-November?

Senator I.J. Gorst (The Chief Minister):

I had hoped for a consultation document to be ready in mid-November. Members will be aware that since then the Minister for Treasury and Resources said he, together with the Minister for Education, would bring forward proposals for student finance alongside Budget 2018. An announcement therefore will be made tomorrow in the Budget speech. We continue, however, to be committed to having new arrangements in place by September 2018.

3.4.1 Deputy J.M. Maçon:

I am not entirely sure what we will be getting tomorrow, therefore can I ask that on behalf of the Minister for Treasury and Resources, the Chief Minister will send all the relevant documentation immediately to the Scrutiny Panel so that we can get up and running with our review, as we have already had our scoping document approved by the chairman?

Senator I.J. Gorst:

Yes, I do. The Deputy will know that I was just ensuring that my colleagues continued to focus on this difficult piece of work at a time when they had wide-ranging issues right across their portfolios. They have done so. I think that their preferred option, which they will be talking about tomorrow, is a good one. They will need to show their workings about the other options, which I discussed with him at his Scrutiny Panel earlier in the year, to give satisfaction that the preferred option is the right way to go.

Deputy J.M. Maçon:

The documentation, will it be sent?

Senator I.J. Gorst:

Sorry, I said yes to that right at the start.

The Bailiff:

We come to question 6, which Deputy Kevin Lewis will ask of the Chief Minister. I think it has been agreed that the Minister for Environment will answer it.