

2018.12.03

9 Deputy M. Tadier of the Minister for Education regarding the funding for the provision of French language assistants and Jèrriais language teachers: [OQ.230/2018]

Will the Minister advise whether full funding for 2019 is secure for the continued provision of French language assistants and Jèrriais language teachers?

Senator T.A. Vallois (The Minister for Education):

The Education Department budget for 2019 is what was approved by the States in the M.T.F.P. (Medium-Term Financial Plan). There was no additional allocation of monies for either of these 2 initiatives. The Education Department, however, has allocated money to language assistance and indeed is committed to providing a quality language provision. The budget and responsibility for Jèrriais lies with Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture Department. They commission the Education Department to provide the teachers on their behalf. On this basis I am unable to confirm that funding is available for Jèrriais as it was transferred from the Education budget in 2012.

3.9.1 Deputy M. Tadier:

Can the Minister confirm that it is her department that funds both language assistants and funds Jèrriais teachers, provides the money, in the latter, to my department for that? Can she confirm that in 2019 at least the same amounts will be allocated to these 2 areas as were in 2018?

Senator T.A. Vallois:

I believe in the answer to the question I did state that the language assistants, the French language assistants are provided from allocation of monies within the Education Department. The budget and responsibility for Jèrriais lies with Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture Department and they commissioned the Education Department to provide teachers on their behalf.

3.9.2 The Connétable of St. Helier:

Is the Minister aware that L'Office du Jèrriais, which is based at the Professional Development Centre at the Education Department, her department, is likely to close this month due to lack of support for the support service, which looks after Jèrriais teachers.

Senator T.A. Vallois:

I am not aware of that and I appreciate the Constable letting me know. Officers have not advised me of this position but I would be happy to go along and speak to L'Office du Jèrriais to discuss further and see what support we can put in place for them.