

2018.06.26

Senator K.L. Moore to the Chief Minister regarding prospective changes to immigration rules ahead of Brexit: [OQ.84/2018]

In light of the U.K. Home Secretary's recent announcement that he plans to relax immigration rules for skilled workers ahead of Brexit, does the Chief Minister intent to follow suit?

Senator J.A.N. Le Fondré (The Chief Minister):

The U.K. has not relaxed its immigration rules for skilled workers in terms of qualifying criteria, but they have made some exemptions in respect of doctors and nurses from the overall migration cap and they have initiated a review of shortage occupations. We will be considering the results of that review once it has concluded and otherwise the Council will determine any wider policy for Jersey as we develop our common strategic policy.

Senator K.L. Moore:

I thank the Chief Minister for his answer.

10.16.1 Deputy G.P. Southern:

Surely the Council of Ministers or the body that supervises this particular aspect is already intent on reducing the number of registered workers coming to the Island and thereby promoting those who are licensed and therefore higher earners with higher skills to come to the Island instead. Surely that policy is already in place.

Senator J.A.N. Le Fondré:

The actual question was did we have any plans to relax immigration rules, so therefore I think the Assistant Minister is very clear as to what is referred to as H.A.W.A.G. (Housing and Work Advisory Group). That body has recently been reconstituted and obviously will be moving forward under present policies and obviously revised policies when they become due.

The Deputy Greffier of the States (in the Chair):

Very well. There are no other supplementary questions. That is the end of Oral Questions.