

2019.05.21

**6 Deputy K.F. Morel of St. Lawrence of the Chief Minister regarding e-mail correspondence between the Chief Minister and Deputy M. Tadier of St. Brelade: (OQ.129/2019)**

Further to the release of emails, following a Freedom of Information request, will the Chief Minister explain why he expressed concern about the fact that an email from Deputy Tadier, regarding the continuing employment status of an officer could be “subject to an F.O.I. (freedom of information) request” and then suggested that Deputy Tadier “do a new e-mail” but “do not include this, or any other part of that chain, in this e-mail”?

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

In relation to the email being subject to an F.O.I. request, I was concerned about the potential harm to the Assistant Minister, but, more importantly, the employee. I was, therefore, reminding the Deputy, in as tactful a way as I could, that all emails are subject to possible F.O.I. requests and that, sometimes, it is better to reflect on the contents of an email before hitting send. In addition, I was suggesting to the Deputy that he issue an immediate apology to the employee and it is my opinion that it should be a clean email, without the email chain being attached, as that felt a better way of apologising, rather than just off the back of the original email that had been transmitted. I would just say, for the avoidance of doubt; I consider the matter now resolved. I look forward to the Deputy resuming his position as an Assistant Minister at the conclusion of this sitting.

[10:15]

**4.6.1 Deputy K.F. Morel:**

I agree about the need to reflect before sending emails, but my concern is about transparency and to understand whether, in the Chief Minister’s mind, was there a desire to avoid transparency in respect of these emails being subject to an F.O.I. request?

**Senator J.A.N. Le Fondré:**

No, as I said, I thought I was trying to express my view in as tactful a way as possible about reflecting before hitting send.