

2020.02.04

11 Deputy S.G. Luce of St. Martin of the Chief Minister regarding the future of the buildings at Haut de la Garenne: (OQ.39/2020)

Has the Council of Ministers made its decision about the future of the buildings at Haut de la Garenne?

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

Yes, on 15th January the Council of Ministers agreed a preferred option for the long-term redemption and future use of the former Haut de la Garenne and Aviemore sites. We also considered a wider report on the progress that has been made towards implementing the recommendations made by the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry since they reported 2 years ago. A summary of progress report will be published in the near future and will describe the preferred option for these sites, once the process of informing stakeholders has been concluded. I will just add, the Director of Regulation is, I believe, in the process of arranging a meeting with both the Connétable of St. Martin and the Deputy, to give them more information.

4.11.1 The Deputy of St. Martin:

Given that this issue and subject has been raised a number of times over the last 18 months and that the decision was taken in the middle of last month, does the Chief Minister share my disappointment that I have had to ask a question on the floor of this Assembly to get the answer?

Senator J.A.N. Le Fondré:

I did update the Connétable and I appreciate it was not the Deputy, it was the Connétable who raised a query of me, while I was away off Island and I did respond to that at that point. Yes, that a decision will be made and the key thing has been to make sure that the relevant stakeholders and obviously the Connétable and Deputy should be one of those, a meeting is in the process of being arranged. We need to be updated before it went public.

4.11.2 Deputy S.M. Ahier:

Will the Chief Minister accept the recommendation of the Jersey Care Inquiry to have Haut de la Garenne demolished?

Senator J.A.N. Le Fondré:

This has been raised on a number of occasions and a survey in July 2018, the Council of Ministers agreed to support the findings of the public consultation about the Care Inquiry's recommendations; 94 per cent of respondents, including the citizens' panel, which includes 4 survivors from our care system, disagreed with that recommendation to raze the building and that remains our position