

2020.04.21

12 Deputy R.J. Ward of the Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture regarding the Government bodies involved in planning the response to the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Jersey: (OQ.94/2020)

Which Government bodies and positions are involved in planning the response to the economic impact in Jersey of the COVID-19 pandemic and who is engaged at a political level in this planning?

Senator L.J. Farnham (The Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture):

Planning for the Island's economic recovery is the core responsibility of the Economy, Financial Services and Digital teams, working with colleagues from the Treasury and Customer and Local Services, regarding the affordability and delivery of any economic support measures. Ultimately, the Council of Ministers have overall responsibility and have approved all the economic support measures put in place so far. The economic recovery plan, in whatever form it takes, will also be subject to the Council of Ministers' approval. As I alluded to in previous answers, consideration is being given to forming an appropriate political oversight group and structure to sit below that to steer the recovery planning process.

3.12.1 Deputy R.J. Ward:

What does the Minister see as the political drivers? Where does he see his political drivers coming from? Does he have a group in mind, because that will be very significant in the way that we plan? This is a political decision.

Senator L.J. Farnham:

I think the drivers are alluded to when we understand the advice we have received from the Fiscal Policy Panel and we understand our revised forecasts, we understand the O.E.C.D. (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) analysis of the immediate impact or the immediate hits to G.D.P. (gross domestic product). From that information, we discuss and agree the priority considerations for Government and ultimately the States Assembly. Those are the key drivers in building a new economy. I also agree that any structure where we put groups together has to be very representative of the Island and contain the local and global expertise that we are going to need to rely upon to rebuild the economy.