

23.10.03

7 Deputy M.B. Andrews of St. Helier North of the Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture regarding the prospect of a Scrutiny Panel to investigate the barriers and opportunities for people accessing Jersey's labour market (OQ.181.2023)

Will the Minister state if he would support the creation of a Scrutiny Panel to investigate the barriers and opportunities for people accessing Jersey's labour market, and if not, why not?

Deputy K.F. Morel (The Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture):

Ordinarily it is not for me or any other Minister to determine which areas of government should be scrutinised or how Scrutiny as a function wishes to organise itself. That is ordinarily the domain of the Scrutiny Liaison Committee and the Scrutiny chairs, so on the one hand I feel my view is unnecessary in this area, but turning to the other element of the question. If I think of it as a standing Scrutiny Panel alongside those that we have in Standing Orders, the 5 Scrutiny Panels plus P.A.C. (Public Accounts Committee), then, no, I would not support such a panel because I do not believe we have a need for another permanent standing Scrutiny Panel. I believe that those 5 panels plus P.A.C. cover off the work of Government quite sufficiently and, having worked in Scrutiny very energetically for years, I stand by that. Should Scrutiny desire to set up a Scrutiny Review Panel into this subject then, absolutely, that is exactly what review panels are there for. They are there to be used to look into particular subjects on a temporary basis and then stand down again. But when I say I would support that, I do so by saying I would support that if that is what S.L.C. (Scrutiny Liaison Committee) wished to happen. It is their decision to make and if they wished to look into this area and set up a review panel that is entirely their decision to make and I would support that decision.