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Deputy M Le Hegarat
Chairman health and Social Security Scrutiny
Panel
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01 November 2018

Dear Deputy,

Thank you for your recent letter further to our first quarterly hearing on Thursday 18 October.

You have requested more detail regarding my ministerial priorities over the current term of office. The Council of Ministers has published its Common Strategic Policy to make our Island stronger, healthier and safer. This is the first step in a new long-term plan for Jersey and sets out our strategic priorities for the next four years.

My predecessor Deputy Susie Pinel commenced a review of the Social Security Fund. This is a major piece of work which I am fully committed to completing.

More of us are living longer and I want to see an increased focus on prevention and keeping people healthy later in life. This will help us to create a more productive workforce and a sustainable economy. I will be working with the Minister for Health and Social Services to develop new models of delivering primary health, and to improve access to both primary care, dental care and preventive services, particularly for children and vulnerable groups for whom cost is a barrier. We will work together towards a more modern multi-disciplinary and cross-service care where and when it is needed, based on what is best for patients.

With an ageing population we need to plan early for the future and to support the growth in our older generation and I am keen to oversee the development and implementation of a strategy to support financial independence in old age. I am committed to investigating options for local workplace pensions so that everyone gets a chance to save for their retirement.

There is an emphasis on skills and vocational training as part of the Common Strategic Plan. I will work closely with the Minister for Education to support skills for all ages through close cooperation. It is vital that we help people gain the tools they need, especially our younger generation, and I would like to see more apprenticeships within businesses and schools working together to give teenagers proper work experience.

I am also very keen to see closer working relationships with the parishes and community groups. The new Customer and Local Services Department will be working with the Constables to help get services delivered all around the island. Our shared ambitions for the island cannot be achieved by government in isolation and we will achieve much more by working together with partners, including the third sector, Parishes, community groups, business and arm's length organisations.

We are in the early part of our current term of office and I am working inclusively with my Assistant Ministers to develop more details and to agree and prioritise our programme of activities over the coming years. I am very keen as we progress to keep the Panel informed so that we can work together constructively.

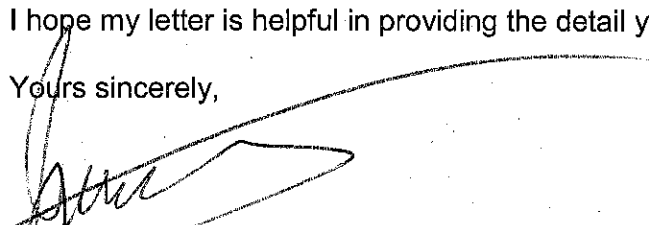
You have also requested clarification regarding my current responsibilities as Minister for Social Security and these include:

- Contribution, benefit and pension schemes
- 'Back to Work' programme, including people with special employment needs
- Employment and discrimination legislation
- Health and Safety legislation.

As I have detailed above we work closely as a ministerial team, both Assistant Ministers Deputy Geoff Southern and Deputy Jeremy Maçon provide ongoing support across the range of my portfolio.

I hope my letter is helpful in providing the detail you have requested.

Yours sincerely,



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