



| States Assembly

States Greffe

Deputy Lucy Stephenson
Assistant Minister for Sustainable Economic Development with responsibility for Sport

BY EMAIL

20th December 2023

Dear Assistant Minister,

Recent Article in media regarding Sports Performance Strategy

We write regarding a recent media article in the Jersey Evening Post on 15th December 2023 regarding Sports Performance Strategy in which it was stated that an amendment by the Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel would have effectively sidelined the proposals to fund the Jersey Performance Strategy.

In case the report was based on information provided to the media by the Assistant Minister, the Panel wishes to correct statements made in the media article.

The article suggests an amendment lodged by the Panel would have 'sidelined' proposals to fund the Strategy. These proposals related to the 'implementation' of a strategy that has not been fully developed. They included the appointment of a performance manager to deliver the strategy on a budget of £150,000 a year over four years in addition to the Sports Officer appointed by the Assistant Minister for Sport pursuant to a successful departmental growth bid last year.

The Panel's review of the Government Plan partly sought to establish whether the funding would be value for money. As the strategy was insufficiently developed or costed at the time of the Panel's review for the Panel to make a sufficiently informed decision, the Panel highlighted this difficulty in its amendment and proposed that the funding sought be held in a reserve account until a business case was provided to States Members for their approval. The production of the business case and its timing would have been within the control of the Assistant Minister and her officers.

When presenting the amendment to States Members, I advised States Members, as Chair of the Panel, that they were entitled to support the funding notwithstanding the lack of proper scrutiny and without seeking receipt of the business case as proposed by the Panel. The States Assembly chose to do so.

It is regrettable that, during the States Assembly debate of the amendment, the Assistant Minister for Sport chose to inform the States Assembly that her Scrutiny Panel does not support investment in sport when the Panel supported Government Plan proposals to fund sports facilities at Fort Regent, Oakfield and Springfield. The Panel supports adequate scrutiny of Ministerial proposals and I would be willing to meet with your officers to discuss how this might be achieved with respect to future Government Plans.

The Panel notes that the Assistant Minister for Sport is also responsible for the Government Communications Department and would be disappointed if that resource has formed the basis of a misleading press report on this occasion.

We would be grateful if you could respond to this no later by 6th January 2024. This is above the timeframe of 5 working days approved for responses between Scrutiny Panels and Ministers to allow for the Christmas break.

If you have any questions regarding this or our work in general, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please note that unless otherwise stated, all letters will be uploaded to the Scrutiny website as a matter of course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Moz Scott". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Deputy Moz Scott

Chair

Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel

cc Deputy Kirsten Morel, Minister for Sustainable Economic Development
Andy Sibcy, Editor, Jersey Evening Post
editorial@jerseyeveningpost.com