



States Greffe

Deputy Inna Gardiner
Minister for Children and Education

BY EMAIL

2nd October 2023

Dear Minister

Follow-up matters from the Public Hearing on 28th September 2023

Thank you for attending the public review hearing last week, together with the Assistant Minister and your Officers, your time is much appreciated. During the hearing you committed to follow up with:

- Considering the training and resources available for Jersey students with dyslexia, for example the online resources from “Made by Dyslexia”, as one example. The Panel would be interested to discuss this subject with you further in future.
- Sharing details of GCSE language exam results with the Panel, broken down by school.
- Provide data and / or further details about the financial support overseen by the Education welfare service in relation to assisting with the costs of school uniforms.
- Regarding the various childcare courses offered at Highlands College, confirmation of:
 - How many spaces there are each year for new entrants?; and
 - What percentage of people completing the childcare courses at Highlands go on to work, in the Early Years sector?

Additionally, the Panel was offered a tour of Mont à L’Abbé school once the extension is complete in December. We would like to accept this offer and would be grateful if arrangements could be made through the Panel’s officer for this, in due course.

As we came to the end of the time allocated for the hearing you kindly committed to respond to the Panel’s additional queries in writing, and I set these out below, for your attention:

Teaching strikes

1. Minister, with regards to the recent teachers strikes, there were some reports that the Government had reneged on an agreement to make a backdated pay award of 7.9% for 2023. Are you able to provide the Panel with details about that situation?
2. Please could you detail what discussions have you had with both the Teaching Unions and the States Employment Board about the ongoing dispute?
3. In the United Kingdom there is an independent body [*the School Teachers’ Review Body*] who examine the pay and employment conditions of teachers and they report and make recommendations to the Secretary of State for Education and the Prime Minister. In Jersey, the negotiation and decision-making process sits directly with the States Employment Board (as employer). You, as Minister with responsibility for Education,

appear to be removed from that process. What do you think about the structure in place in Jersey?

- a. Do you think that the structure in Jersey is optimum?
- b. Are there any learnings that could be taken from other jurisdictions?

Safe recruitment

4. Thank you for your response to the Panel's letter on 29th August 2023 in relation to safe recruitment. It referenced that a new safeguarding checking service (Proteus) and procedure was introduced in 2022. What feedback have you received about this process so far?
5. It was noted that the safe recruitment policy was last reviewed substantively in 2017 and was due to be updated. Why was this policy not updated at the same time as the updates to the safeguarding checking processes?

Vapes

6. Minister, please could you advise what discussions have taken place between CYPES and Public Health regarding informing young people about vapes and possible health or environmental risks associated with their use?
 - a. What work is planned on this for the future?

Translation services

7. The Panel has heard feedback that schools are able to send out communications and surveys to parents in languages other than English, but that the schools don't always have the necessary support or budget to translate any responses received.

Please could you advise whether there is a policy in place relating to the provision of language translations for parent and school communications?

Thank you in advance for your assistance. The Panel looks forward to your formal response and would request that this is received by Monday 9th October 2023.

Yours sincerely,



Deputy Catherine Curtis
Chair, Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel