

Chief Minister



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By Email

10th November 2023

Deputy Sam Mézec
President
Scrutiny Liaison Committee

Dear Deputy Mézec

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam".

Thank you for your letter dated 9th November 2023.

While the legislative programme for 2023 and 2024 have now been produced, I have previously said that the government will review extant Assembly decisions to identify those that have not been implemented and to determine how to progress.

Aiding in this, and providing transparency and accountability, the Privileges and Procedures Committee have within their work programme the development of a tracker for States Decisions. Once this is produced, we will review these decisions with a view to determine how to approach each decision including in relation to an extension of the Freedom of Information Law. I feel it important to consider the full body of outstanding decisions, so we can determine how to prioritise.

In the meantime, I can confirm that past governments have engaged with the Arm's Length Bodies and States Owned Entities to assess their views and the impact of extending the Law to them. Decisions need to be made as to how to respond to those views, which could include, for example, strengthening exemptions to protect commercial interests, or a gradual implementation. We would be content to share these submissions received with the relevant Panel if that would assist.

More broadly, my view is that while the decisions of past Assemblies continue to be applicable, our focus as a government must be on implementing our programme, responding to the current priorities of Islanders, notably housing, recruitment and retention, and the cost of living, alongside the requests of the currently elected Assembly. Indeed, I am of a view that a default mechanism to deal with older decisions should be in place, recognising that circumstances and political positions change over time.

I also note from your letter that "certain implications of this situation have been raised at Scrutiny Liaison Committee meetings". It may help us to understand those "certain implications" in making decisions, and I would be grateful if the Committee could perhaps share those thoughts with us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristina".

Deputy Kristina Moore
Chief Minister