

**REPLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF
THE COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION, SPORT & CULTURE
TO QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 14 OF THE RULES OF
PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY LESTER QUERIPEL**

Question 1

Bearing in mind the fact that your committee have had to apply so much political oversight to educational matters in recent months, can you give me an absolute assurance that your committee are still able to apply effective, efficient and sufficient political oversight to all of the other areas you are responsible for under your mandate, and that all of your time isn't spent applying political oversight to educational matters exclusively?

Answer

I can provide you with that absolute assurance.

It may help to explain that throughout the latter months of the development of our transforming education proposals, extra Committee meetings and project meetings were scheduled for that specific purpose. This was done to ensure that we were able to maintain appropriate political oversight in all other areas within our mandate.

To illustrate, the regular schedule of Committee meetings is for us to meet for a full day, once every two weeks. Thus far in 2019, the Committee has met 19 times and on at least 14 of those occasions, the agenda has covered more than just educational matters ranging from the development of Footes Lane through to a full day touring our historic sites to gain an update on our upcoming challenges in that area. An additional 7 meetings were also held in between those 19 scheduled meetings that were specifically convened to cover matters relating to the transforming education programme - one or two of those also featured items falling within other areas of our mandate when the need for political oversight was pressing.

I thank Deputy Queripel for providing me with this opportunity to remind States Members of my Committee's commitment that our proposals to fund a Language Commission as well as a comprehensive Sports Strategy, in the form of our Active and Sporting Community Plan, will both be coming forward for consideration and support from the Assembly later this political term.

Question 2

a) Have members of your committee been assigned to, and been given responsibility for, specific areas under your mandate as individual committee members?

b) If the answer to Q2)a) above is 'Yes', then are you able please to provide me with details as to which of your committee members are assigned to which areas specifically?

Answer

I am fortunate in that all Members of my Committee have a general interest in the areas covered by our mandate. As such, no single individual has been given responsibility for specific areas. In fact, I would go as far as to say that when we have considered assigning individual areas of our mandate to individual Members, we have not succeeded because all of us want to retain a strong level of involvement.

Having said that, individual members do represent the Committee in specific forums, updating the full Committee as required. As an example, Deputy Rhian Tooley represents the Committee at the British Irish Council during discussions about the future of Guernésiais, but the Committee as a whole is engaged in the development of our Language Strategy. Similarly, Deputy Richard Graham is taking an active role in the work to strengthen the future of the Guernsey Arts Commission, but the full Committee has been involved directly in decision making at each step. I sit as the Committee's representative on the Sports Commission, but the new and exciting investment that we are making in the Primary Schools Sports Partnership has been brought about through the involvement and engagement of the full Committee. I could go on, but I think my point is clear.

Date of receipt of the Question: 6TH August 2019
Date of Reply: 21st August 2019