



# Scrutiny Management Committee

## MEDIA RELEASE

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 0001 HOURS, TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2020**

### **SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDING A TRIBUNAL OF INQUIRY**

The Scrutiny Management Committee (the Committee) has decided to submit for a second and final time a policy letter to be debated which again will formally recommend that a Tribunal of Inquiry be convened to investigate the circumstances around the appointment for the role of Head of Curriculum and Standards.

The Committee has been attempting to commission an effective independent review of this matter since early September 2019. However, despite best efforts, very limited progress to date has been made. The Committee has acted in good faith in trying to progress an effective review, but now firmly believes that this option is unlikely to result in the publication of a transparent, meaningful and conclusive report that represents value for money.

Due to Data Protection and other legal concerns, the Committee has not been able to gain access to the complete set of documents in un-redacted form. Further, a recent modification to the Data Protection Law has potentially created further difficulties regarding the publication of a full and frank report at the end of the review.

The estimated cost of an independent review would be approximately £150,000. Spending that amount of money on a review that may not be able to include all the relevant facts in the final published report cannot be the best use of public funds. By contrast, a Tribunal of Inquiry would, in the Committee's view, cost approximately £150,000 but would not encounter many of the issues related to an independent review.

The Committee is unanimously of the view that the public interest would be served by the review process being conducted via a Tribunal of Inquiry.

Deputy Chris Green, President of the Scrutiny Management Committee commented:

*"My Committee believes that a Tribunal of Inquiry is now the only course of action to deal with this matter. Despite my Committee's best efforts the independent review has faced significant obstacles at every turn, particularly in terms of data protection which have brought us to the conclusion that the only effective resolution would be a Tribunal of Inquiry. My Committee*

*hopes that the States Assembly will support its second submission of the Policy Letter to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion”.*

-ENDS-

Date issued: 11 February 2020

Issued by: Lisa Wonnacott, Scrutiny Officer; Suzanne Randle, Scrutiny Officer

Email: [lisa.wonnacott@gov.gg](mailto:lisa.wonnacott@gov.gg); [suzanne.randle@gov.gg](mailto:suzanne.randle@gov.gg)

Tel: 01481 230073; 01481 230072