



# Scrutiny Management Committee

## MEDIA RELEASE

### SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – CESSATION OF INDEPENDENT INQUIRY

For the avoidance of doubt, the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) has unanimously decided not to proceed any further with commissioning an independent review of the appointment process used for the Head of Curriculum and Standards matter.

The SMC's Policy Letter on setting up a Tribunal of Inquiry was defeated on a tied vote 17 votes all on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 so the propositions were lost. During that debate, Members of the SMC had warned that if the proposals were lost, it was likely that there would be no further action on the review.

The SMC had always maintained that a statutory tribunal was clearly required to ensure a truly independent, transparent and cost effective review. This was particularly so given the likely significant redaction issues due to Data Protection concerns - upon publication. It was felt by the SMC that any other sort of review would simply not be sufficient to serve the public interest. Even the acquisition of new powers to compel witnesses and obtain documents will not guarantee the publication of a full and frank report.

Deputy Green said:

*"Given the COVID-19 pandemic and the changing priorities of the SMC as well as of the States generally, my Committee has unanimously decided that the commissioning of an independent review should be discontinued. This should surprise no-one. We tried in good faith to commission an effective review but it simply was not possible. We then asked the States to endorse a Tribunal of Inquiry, but that was lost on a tied vote. An amendment from Policy & Resources to re-start our independent review was heavily defeated. These States resolutions have ultimately guided us to this point."*

-ENDS-

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