STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

20th May, 2020

Proposition No. P. 2020/75

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE STATES' BUSINESS

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy H J R Soulsby
Seconded by: Deputy R H Tooley

To insert the following wording at the end of the Proposition –

"subject to inserting "P.2020/42 – Committee for Health & Social Care – Modernisation of the Abortion (Guernsey) Law, 1997" immediately after "P.2020/32 – States' Trading Supervisory Board – Guernsey Airport Hold Baggage Screening System Update" in paragraph (g) of the items for the States Meeting commencing on the 17th June, 2020, and deleting the same where it is listed in paragraph (g) of the items for the States Meeting commencing on the 15th July, 2020."

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This amendment restores the policy letter on the Modernisation of the Abortion Law to its original position on the schedule of States' business for 17th June, 2020.

The policy letter was published on 2nd March, 2020, and members of the public have therefore had an extended period (of over 3 months) to make their views known to States Members. It is unlikely that any further new information will come to light if the debate is delayed a further month.

The policy letter was informed by consultation, including with professionals responsible for providing abortion-related care and with people who might require access to abortion services, prior to publication. The Committee will continue to take steps to raise awareness of the proposals ahead of the June debate date.

Authorities in England have recently increased access to home abortion options for women, in order to minimise risks associated with the current pandemic. We have not taken steps to introduce similar measures on an emergency basis, because the debate on updating Guernsey's abortion legislation was imminent. It is therefore important that the debate should not be delayed any further.