

**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 QUERPEL**

**Pre-amble**

ESC recently stated in the media that challenges with local construction sector capacity and supply chains represent a real risk to the timelines involved in the renovation and remodelling of our secondary schools here in the island. However, in response to that, John Bampkin, the Chairman of the Guernsey Construction Forum, said in the media that ESC hadn't even engaged with the industry regarding the proposed renovation and remodelling of Secondary schools here in the island. His exact words were 'Nobody asked us whether we can deliver or not. They're not engaging with us. They haven't even talked to us. This is a perfect example of where the States and the industry need to be joined at the hip'. Brian Singleton, Secretary of the Guernsey Building Trades Employers Association also said in the media recently that his organisation hadn't been contacted by ESC either. Now I very much appreciate there are always two sides to a story, but on the face of it, this appears to be a prime example of where the levels of communication between two parties needs to be greatly improved, so with that in mind, can you please answer the following Rule 14 questions set out below.

**Question**

1. Have ESC consulted and engaged with the construction industry here in the island regarding the proposed renovation and remodelling of our Secondary schools?

**Answer**

We can confirm that representatives of the Transforming Education Programme team have had discussion with representatives of the local construction industry with regards to the forthcoming investment in our schools and post-16 education. Engagement took place over the summer of 2021, primarily focussed on the length of time that would be required to develop the new facilities planned for the Les Ozouets Campus. This informed our view of timeline risks, as was referenced in our communications of last week.

**Question**

2. If the answer is 'no you haven't' then can you please tell me why you haven't?

**Answer**

See the answer to the first question. There has been engagement.

**Question**

3. If the answer is 'yes you have' then do you have any idea why the representatives of the industry are saying you haven't?

**Answer**

The nature of the discussions was high-level and carefully structured and bounded, to avoid any commercially inappropriate engagement prior to a tender process for such build activity. This is thought to be the root cause of some recent questions from the construction industry regarding the level of communication to date.

**Question**

4. Can you tell me please, what will ESC be doing to ensure the levels of communication from ESC to the building industry are as effective and as efficient as they need to be, to ensure there is no 'breakdown' in communication, or uncertainty or confusion in the future?

**Answer**

The commercially sensitive nature of our work continues. We are working with procurement and legal advisers to plan out the optimum procurement route for the delivery of this project. This will include engagement with local contractors in what is known as a Two Stage Tender process, and then working up the design with a preferred bidder. The current timeline will see this engagement commencing in the near future.

**Date of receipt of the Question: 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

**Date of Reply: 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021**