

**REPLY BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF  
THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
TO A QUESTION ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE  
RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY LAURIE B. QUERIPEL**

**Preamble**

*I am writing to ask questions about the children's services for which your Department is responsible.*

**Question 1**

*Can you please advise when these services were last subject to an independent review and validation?*

**Answer**

Due to the diverse nature of Children's Services, it is important to note that there is not one single validation or review process that would cover all services.

Between 2002 and 2013, there have been fourteen independent reviews on various parts of Children's Services, ranging from specific service reviews to individual case reviews. The outcomes of these reviews have been provided to the Board with appropriate levels of assurance.

**Question 2**

*"If they were subject to such a review could you please furnish me with the terms of reference and any recommendations made via the resultant report?"*

**Answer**

The HSSD Board has considered the recommendations of these reviews, which have been incorporated into action plans and are then implemented as appropriate.

Many of the reports, terms of reference and recommendations made remain confidential to the HSSD because they relate to specific individual cases. However, others such as the report produced following the visit of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 2010, are widely available.

**Date of Receipt of the Question:** 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013

**Date of Reply:** 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013