

**REPLY BY THE CHIEF MINISTER
TO A QUESTION ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY ELIS BEBB**

Preamble

The fourth proposition of the Requête concerning the Clarification of the responsibility and accountability of the Civil Service to the Political Boards and Committees states “To direct that any change to the overall structure of the civil service resulting in a change to inter departmental relationships would have a political effect and as such, should be subject to a states report and appropriate resolution by the States of Deliberation”.

At the end of the July debate Deputy Fallaize requested of you that no further changes be undertaken in the civil services that would, in effect, preempt the above proposition. In your response to the request from Deputy Fallaize you stated that you could not give such assurance.

Question 1

“Could I therefore ask what changes you intend to undertake that would preempt the above proposition”.

Answer

There are no such plans. As stated in my earlier reply to a question from Deputy Gollop, the Policy Council is currently looking to recruit a Chief Officer for the Policy Council to replace Mr Nigel Lewis whose retirement as Deputy Chief Executive has recently been announced.

It is not anticipated that such an appointment will cause any change to the overall structure of the Civil Service that would change inter departmental relationships.

Question 2

“Could I ask you why you feel it appropriate to persist with such action in the knowledge that there is a proposition pending that would require you to report such changes to the States of Deliberation”.

Answer

Not applicable. The process for the appointment referred to above does not amount to any change to the overall structure of the Civil Service that would change inter departmental relationships; it would not therefore require such a report to the States of Deliberation.

Question 3

“Could I ask you to clarify why the Policy Council is looking to employ a Chief Officer”.

Answer

The advertised role of a Chief Officer of the Policy Council is a direct replacement of the Deputy Chief Executive who retires at the end of October this year. The Deputy Chief Executive has heretofore provided the level of support to the Policy Council that would be expected of a Chief Officer. The proposed appointment represents a change of job title and not role.

Question 4

“Could you confirm if this position will be funded by an equivalent financial reduction in FTE of the Policy Council. If not, please would you clarify how this position will be funded”.

Answer

No additional funding is required. The position is a direct replacement of a member of staff who is retiring.

Question 5

“Given the current undertaking to encourage voluntary redundancies for the reduction of headcount and reduction of cost, could you clarify how this new Chief Officer position is aligned with such a strategic move”.

Answer

As stated above, the proposed appointment is not a new position it is a replacement.

Question 6

“Could I ask you to clarify the new Chief Officer’s proposed relationship with the Chief Officers of the Departments”.

Answer

The relationship will be one of equality with the other Chief Officers.

Date of Receipt of the Question: 13th August 2013

Date of Reply: 21st August 2013