

**REPLY BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PAROCHIAL ECCLESIASTICAL RATES
REVIEW COMMITTEE TO A QUESTION ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF
THE RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY M J FALLAIZE**

Preamble

On 24th February, 2012, after consideration of a policy letter submitted by the Parochial Ecclesiastical Rates Review Committee, the States resolved:

- 1. To note that whilst the bare title to the ten ancient parish churches and the nine ancient parish churchyards may be vested in the Crown, it is acknowledged that the parishes certainly have beneficial ownership of this property.*
- 2. That the legal ownership of the parish rectories, their grounds (with the exception of the St Peter Port and Vale Rectories), and glebe land... shall be statutorily vested in the respective Constables, on behalf of the parishes.*
- 3. That the ownership of the Torteval Church Hall and St Martin's Community Centre shall be statutorily vested in the Constables of Torteval and St Martin respectively, on behalf of the parishes.*
- 4. That the lease held by St Martin's Community Centre LBG continues to be valid after the statutory vesting in St Martin's parish of the land on which it is situated.*
- 5. That any sale of a rectory statutorily vested in accordance with recommendation 2, shall require the approval of a meeting of the ratepayers called specifically for the purpose.*
- 6. That a Management Board be established by and for each parish with a constitution and mandate as set out in paragraphs 4.2.30 to 4.2.35 of the Report.*
- 7. That each Douzaine shall have responsibility for the management of the relevant parish rectory (with the exception of the St. Peter Port and Vale Rectories) as set out in paragraphs 4.2.36 to 4.2.38 of the Report.*
- 8. That the Loi Relative à La Taxation Paroissiale 1923, as amended, be further amended, as set out in paragraphs 4.4.1 to 4.4.3 of the Report.*
- 9. To amend the Parish Reserve Funds Law by deleting any reference to "cemeteries" and replacing it with the "churchyards" (ecclesiastical) and "the parish cemeteries" (secular), as set out in paragraph 4.4.5 of the Report.*
- 10. To direct the preparation of such legislation as may be necessary to give effect to the above decisions.*

Question 1

When does the Parochial Ecclesiastical Rates Review Committee intend to submit legislation to the States in order to fulfil Resolution 10, and by extension the other Resolutions, above?

Answer

The Committee hopes to submit the draft legislation to fulfil Resolution 10 to the February or March 2014 Meeting of the States.

Question 2

Does the Parochial Ecclesiastical Rates Review Committee elected by the States in May, 2012 remain committed to fulfilling the Resolutions made by the States in February, 2012; and, if not, when will the Committee lay a policy letter before the States recommending policies other than those approved by the States in February, 2012?

Answer

The Committee remains committed to fulfilling the States' Resolutions of 24 February 2012.

Question 3

In the event that the Committee is unable to fulfil Resolution 10 above within two years of its having been made by the States, i.e. by the February, 2014 meeting, is the Committee prepared to give an undertaking that its chairman will make a statement to the States providing information about when Resolution 10, and by extension the other Resolutions, will be fulfilled?

Answer

The Committee is prepared to give an undertaking in such circumstances and in the terms that the question sets out.

Date of Receipt of Question: 17 September 2013

Date of Reply: 23 September 2013