4.13 Deputy M.B. Andrews of St. Helier North of the Minister for Treasury and Resources regarding the reasoning behind the decision of the Council of Ministers not to reinstate the full States Grant to the Social Security Fund before 2030. (OQ.105/2026)

Will the Minister explain the reasoning behind the decision of the Council of Ministers not to reinstate the full States Grant to the Social Security Fund before 2030?

Senator A.J.H.M. Maclean (The Minister for Treasury and Resources):

Let me again emphasise the Council of Ministers' commitment to ensuring that our Social Security Fund is properly funded and sustainable for the long term. The States Grant was temporarily reduced by the previous Council of Ministers and States Assembly to support investment in healthcare, Children's Services and support Islanders in Budget 2026. As I explained to the Assembly in September, that reduction was temporary. Through Budget 2027, we have confirmed the commitment to restoring the States Grant by 2030. The decision not to bring this reinstatement forward in full reflects the need to take an informed, responsible decision about what is affordable and deliverable in the short term. Reviews are currently underway and expected to report in quarter one, 2027. These will provide updated long-term projections of the fund's sustainability and consider the appropriate balance between contributions, States funding and reserves. It would therefore be premature to make firm commitments on an earlier timing before all the evidence is available. Accordingly, Budget 2027 retains the existing timetable agreed by the previous Assembly. However, if evidence and the wider public finance position supports an earlier restoration of the grant, that is something I would be keen to pursue.