

**Minister for Home Affairs
Justice and Home Affairs**



19-21 Broad Street | St Helier
Jersey | JE2 3RR

Connétable Mike Jackson
States Greffe
Morier House
St Helier
JE1 1DD

27 September 2019

Mike
Dear Connétable

Government Plan 2020 – Written Questions

Thank you for your letter dated 19 September 2019 regarding Prison Improvement Works and Dewberry House. I have provided answers to your questions below.

Prison Improvement Works – Phase 6b

1. Did work on Phase 6(a) of the Prison Improvement Works commence in July, as scheduled?

We are currently still tendering to build a new Gate House, as the submitted tenders were all above the budget threshold. Jersey Property Holdings (JPH) lead on this aspect of the project to ensure that the contract is awarded within budget and it complies with the Government's procurement rules.

2. When can we expect this work to be completed by?

The indicative timeline for building the new Gate House is 20 months from commencement of the build.

3. How much will Phase 6(a) cost?

The estimated cost of building the new Gate House is £8.3 million. This money was agreed as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). The final cost of this phase of the project is subject to the tendering process awarding the final contract.

4. When do you expect funding to be approved and work to commence on Project 6(b)?

Project 6(b) involves the demolition of A, B & C Wings in preparation for the new build, and relocation of the Atlas Lock Hub. Please note that Phase 6 (a) and (b) can occur independently of each other. Planning permission for this is already granted, and this can commence as soon as funding is approved by the States Assembly.

5. Is there a possibility of delay regarding the completion of these Phases?

We do not anticipate any delay to the completion of Phases 6(a) and 6(b).

6. Are you confident that the level of funding requested is sufficient to enable the project to meet its stated aims?

Yes, the funding levels are based on detailed project proposals which have been developed jointly between the Prison Service and Property holdings.

7. What is the likelihood of the provided costs being revised before next year's Government Plan?

The budget for Phase 6(a) was allocated in 2019. The budget for Phase 6(b) is set out in this Government Plan. The final cost of both Phases will be subject to tendering and awarding a final commercial contract.

8. Are you satisfied that the works due to be undertaken are sustainable for the future?

Yes, the revised prison redevelopment plan meets the future needs of the States of Jersey Prison Service to deliver its core objectives of a secure and safe prison, that rehabilitates prisoners, and can contribute to the islands safety by reducing reoffending.

Dewberry House

9. When was it first identified that the current site was no longer fit for purpose?

During the 2015 property valuation inspections which were undertaken by Property Holdings and the UK District Valuation Service. Dewberry House is a Grade 2 listed building and has no disabled access. The building itself is a house and not a purpose built commercial building which therefore limits its emergency access and egress points as required by fire regulations. Also we are now at capacity in terms of space which therefore will not allow the service to grow and develop.

10. What research and consultation have you undertaken to ensure that a new build would meet the requirements for Children and Young People?

At this stage no design work has been undertaken. We have prepared a schedule of accommodation which has been based on analysis of other SARCs/Child House and the knowledge of the spatial requirements needed to support specific areas of activity, such as office needs and Forensic requirements. To develop part of the building into a child house we will be supported by a project team, including NCPCC who have experience in developing equivalent in London.

When a child or young person discloses sexual abuse, they often have to navigate the system by themselves and will have to re-tell their disclosure to number of professionals. We hope to bring all the services needed; medical, social care, advocacy, police and therapeutic support, will be housed under one roof. We hope to follow a model known as the Barnahus (Child House), pioneered in Iceland 20 years ago then launched Sweden, Norway, Greenland and Denmark. The system is recognised as international best practice because it is child-centric and achieves the most effective results.

11. The business case is requesting that the allocation of 1m in 2020 and 1.55m in 2021 be granted to explore the potential to either move the centre to an alternative location or develop a new building. It further states that the funding requested is an indicative cost for the development of a new build facility. Why is this funding being requested now for both 2020 and 2021, if it is not yet known which is the best option?

At this stage, only £1m of the overall projected £2.55m cost has been proposed within the Government Plan. The funding for 2021 is not in the "decision" column on page 149 of the Government Plan nor included within the proposition to the States. This allows the initial funding to do the feasibility and commence works (potentially enabling works or to meet immediate pressures) and then influence the amount to be proposed in the Government Plan 2021-2024 which will contain firm details of the remaining expected costs of the project.

A detailed feasibility study will be needed and this, it is proposed, will be undertaken in 2020. This work will need to explore the options around a new build and refurbishment of an existing building. At this stage it is reasonable to predict that whichever option becomes the recommended one, additional work – either site acquisition or commencement of the build – will take place in 2020. Work on site will then need to continue into 2021. The process of designing, acquiring/sourcing, obtaining consents and procuring any appropriate property will take several months.

12. Have you conducted a feasibility study into the viable options? If not, why are you seeking funding for possible future development, instead of funding for a feasibility study in the first instance?

Feasibility work is planned for 2020. It was imperative to ensure that the SARC was included in the capital bidding process for the Government Plan. We have carried out some work to identify the spatial requirements for the SARC/Child House and this formed the basis of the cost calculations included within the business case. The urgency and importance of the SARC/Child House means that seeking initial funding for a feasibility study will have had a knock-on effect to the provision of a suitable facility from which to provide the service. The interim solution of remaining in the current facility is not sustainable.

13. If the funding requested is only an indicative cost, to what extent can you be confident that the level of funding requested will be sufficient to meet the project's stated aims.

At this stage, the estimate is in line with Financial Direction requirements. As the feasibility work progresses this estimate will be refined to create further accuracy within the allocated budget. Whilst it is impossible to be entirely confident that the proposed allocation will be sufficient, the estimate for this project has been based on reasonable assumptions and current build cost data.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Len Norman', written in a cursive style.

Connétable Len Norman
Minister for Home Affairs

