

**Investigation into the delivery of the drop down day at QEII in September 2022, the preparation and recent delivery of RSE in QEII and subsequent outcomes**

**Investigating Officers**

The Department has appointed both Paul Morris and Richard Power to carry out this External Independent Investigation (Investigation).

**Delegated Authority**

The Investigating Officers act with the authority of the Chief Officer of the Department of Education, Sport and Culture in conducting this Investigation.

**Method**

The Investigation will be conducted under the Department of Education, Sport and Culture's complaints procedure.

**Matter to be Investigated**

Following a number of concerns that have been raised to the Department, via social media platforms and through media outlets both locally and nationally, into the delivery of the RSE curriculum which was being delivered within secondary schools and specifically at QEII. The Department has deployed an Investigation, to gain an independent understanding of what has taken place at QEII and establish the facts of the situation.

The Department has taken the decision to pause all RSE delivery across both Primary and Secondary schools until this Investigation has taken place.

It is noted that the Headteacher at QEII is in full support of this Investigation and had initially requested an independent review.

**Scope of the Investigation**

The Scope of the Investigation is agreed as the following:-

**Part 1**

Delivery of the drop down day in question, held in September 2022 at QEII.

**Part 2**

The preparation and delivery of RSE in QEII;

The below will be carried out following a report from Part 2

**Part 3**

The RSE Advisory Curriculum, Guidance and training provided by the Department.

In order to understand the appropriateness of the actions covered by the Scope of the Investigation it is necessary to understand, as far as possible, the facts of what happened during the delivery of the drop down day in September 2022, the events leading up to the recent

delivery of RSE at QEII, the facts of what happened during the recent delivery of RSE at QEII and subsequent related events.

The Scope of the Investigation, in some areas, requires the Investigation Officers to ascertain the facts in relation to each of the elements as set out above and assess the appropriateness, or otherwise, of actions taken.

This Investigation will seek to establish whether action taken and decisions made were within the bounds of reasonableness in line with the Advisory Curriculum. It is not for the Investigation Officers to impose their own views, equally the Investigation Officers must be careful not to apply hindsight in assessing any decisions.

### **Background of RSE**

The purpose of the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Advisory Curriculum is to ensure that children and young people develop the knowledge, understanding, skills and attributes they need to support their emotional and physical wellbeing. Providing this guidance to schools helps to build consistency across our Island's schools, provides staff with equal access to high quality resources, and ensures that age and stage appropriate content is delivered to students.

The RSE Advisory Curriculum provides guidance and support to primary and secondary schools to deliver the RSE aspect of PSHE. Although new to primaries in September 2022, the secondary content and guidance has been available to secondary schools since 2020, as support in this area was requested by schools in 2019.

The RSE Advisory Curriculum identifies themes, concepts and appropriate terminology from a number of sources including, but not limited to, Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP), Childnet, The PSHE Association and Public Health England. The structure and content has been guided by Scotland's (RSHP) resource to ensure content is mapped from Reception to Year 11, which has been quality assured and peer reviewed by a partnership of educators, health professionals and third sector organisations.

The content provided is tailored and adapted for our Island's schools and it is not an exact replication. The guidance shares links to resources that teaching staff can access and adapt. However, there is no requirement to use any of the resources; school professionals will select the resources they wish to deliver within their school to meet the needs of their students.

Each school creates their own individual RSE Policy that advises on their content and delivery, advising parents/carers how they can discuss this with the school.

### **Exclusions**

Non-Applicable.

### **Interviews**

The Investigating Officers will meet with the Headteacher at QEII in the first instance.

The Investigating Officers will request that the Headteacher identifies key members of staff to meet to establish the facts. This will include (but may not be limited to) the

staff who delivered the RSE content and the drop down day in September 2022, the QEII PHSE Lead, the Departmental Advisory teacher for PHSE, and any other staff from within the Department where it is deemed necessary.

Further interviews are to be determined by the Investigating Officers but may include:

Local Constituency MHK's - to understand what correspondence they have received from parents;

Public Health – to discuss the meetings prior to the Advisory Curriculum being issued to schools;

Eliza Cox, Vice Chair Marown Commissioners – to understand discussions within the Commissioners meeting, the context and comments raised within the published video through Energy FM;

Jason Moorhouse, MHK – to understand the context and comments raised within the published video through Energy FM;

Parents from QEII – to understand their concerns;

Following the above interviews, if the Investigating Officers deem it necessary to meet with students, normal safeguarding procedures will need to be adhered to which includes gaining parental consent.

### **Timeframes for the Investigation**

It is anticipated that the Investigation will commence Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023. Part 1 of the report will be completed and submitted to the Department no later than Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Part 2 and 3 of the report will be completed as soon as possible, thereafter.

### **Report to the Department of Education, Sport and Culture**

The report will be formulated between both Investigating Officers named within this TOR and include all relevant information gathered, including the facts gathered in interviews. The report will be referred to the Chief Officer for further consideration and any appropriate action/s.

The findings will be submitted to the Council of Ministers and then be made available to the public.

### **Confidentiality**

This Investigation operates under a strict code of confidentiality within the requirements of the law.

All information will be kept confidential.

However, all parties should be aware that the potential exists for claims made under this Policy to proceed to a hearing and in such instances; witness statements and other information would need to be disclosed to a third party.

In addition, where the Investigating Officers consider that a criminal offence may have been committed they are required to contact and disclose the information to the Police.