

Chief Minister



19-21 Broad Street | St Helier
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Deputy Tom Binet
Minister for Infrastructure
By email

13 April 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Binet".

Two weeks have now passed since we last spoke. After sharing your views with me you asked to have a few days to reflect. I have seen from your recent statement that you have now had an opportunity to do so and wish to continue as Infrastructure Minister. I have no desire to see any changes in the membership of the Council of Ministers and hope we can now move forward positively together.

As you know, there is much to do in the Infrastructure portfolio. I have valued your contributions as a Minister and appreciate that you are someone with strong views who gives frank and direct advice. When we met on 27th March, we both agreed that our meeting was positive and we were moving forward. You then communicated that publicly, which I appreciated.

For my part, I consider that there is much we agree upon, and I am keen that we focus on continuing in our shared vision to deliver for the public, particularly in relation to much needed new healthcare facilities. I had hoped that we could return to regular, respectful discussion and the direct communication that is usual between colleagues and that I enjoy with all other Ministers and officials. I feel that this has not always been the case in your dialogue with me.

Events since 27th March have unfortunately caused difficulties. To avoid the risk of our communicating through the media, I have refrained from responding to their requests in recent days following comments you have made to them. My hope is that we can continue a normal working relationship and, where necessary, rebuild and learn from the past. We have already demonstrated that we can do that successfully.

As Ministers, we all need to work in a collegiate atmosphere of mutual courtesy, professionalism and respect as set out in our agreed Ministerial Code of Conduct. This also sets out the expectation that there will be a 'no surprises' approach to communication. This atmosphere must include the Chief Minister's relationship with individual Ministers, which is vital to the smooth running of government. I am pleased to lead a Council of talented individuals, strong personalities and differing views. This is a great strength and enables us to debate issues fully and results in better decision making.

Recognising your strength of feeling on various matters and your stated wish to take time to take stock and consider your views, I have thought it best to pause and was hopeful that you would contact me once you had taken the time to reflect. We have reached a point where there is clearly a need to clarify and resolve this issue, especially in view of the upcoming States Assembly meeting of 18th April.

I have extended an invitation for us to meet which I hope you will be able to accept. I trust you will understand that, as Chief Minister, I cannot allow a situation to continue where disagreements linger and distract us from the task of delivering on the plans that we have a democratic mandate to deliver. This ongoing situation risks that scenario arising. I am sorry that you previously expressed opinions about my leadership and, whilst you are free to hold those views, a working relationship and respect needs to be in place for the office and role of Chief Minister, and those of all fellow Ministers.

I hope that in a further meeting we can discuss ongoing issues that are of mutual interest in our portfolios and talk through any matters where we need to clarify understanding. We can then continue to move forward collectively.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kristina Moore'.

Deputy Kristina Moore
Chief Minister