

Cabinet – 15 October 2015 – Response to Question not reached at Cabinet

8.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor David Perry

Question: “Why do you think it is acceptable for Cabinet assistants to be able to be involved in formal scrutiny processes which can involve the remit of their respective portfolio holders?”

Written Response: As an Administration we believe in the value of good and effective scrutiny, holding ourselves as executive decision makers to account. In order that scrutiny can add the greatest impact on behalf of residents it is important that members are involved in those areas where their experience and expertise of the subject matter being reviewed can be utilised. This therefore contributes to more effective scrutiny.

However, we also recognise that no member may be involved in scrutinising a decision in which he/she has been directly involved. In particular, Portfolio Holder Assistants shall not participate or vote on the scrutiny of matters within their identified remit, as approved by Cabinet.

There will however be some specific circumstances where we have to make a judgement about whether there is an overlap. Where this is the case our Legal Department will be asked to advise on such cases.