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Panel of Constitutional Affairs

Written submission of

Sir David Akers Jones for 19 May

Deputies

There is a simple explanation of why the appointment of Deputies of Finance and Chief Secretary are needed and long overdue. Some years ago in an earlier management restructuring these posts were abolished, a layer of Secretaries was created as headless chickens occasionally to squabble and squawk among themselves in prolonged battles for leadership in the Government farmyard. I am surprised that no-one from the private sector has come forward with the reason when their approach to get an answer from the Government all too often is passed from pillar to post.

In recent history a post of Secretary for Development was created hopefully to bring a number of chickens to roost together but they were all level pecking, and it was not wholly successful.

Now at long last CY in his proposed structuring is bringing back the Deputies so that agreements can be reached and disagreements settled at a lower level without having to wait in a queue to catch the Chiefs attention and so that the work of Government can proceed more expeditiously and efficiently.

I write with experience of a system which had Deputies for Finance, Chief and Economics. I am surprised too that those critics of what is proposed cannot recall when the Chief who had so many important things on his plate and yet was made responsible for lopping the branches of dangerous trees! Why?

David Akers-Jones