

## Minister for Children and Housing



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

Office of the Children's Commissioner

**By email**

13<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Commissioner,

Thank you for your letter. I understand you sent a similar letter to the Minister for Health and Social Services and he is sending you a separate response.

Our Government's top priority in our Common Strategic Policy is "put children first". The 2020 Government plan included an ambitious range of projects using growth funding of over £20 million to support this pledge. During these unprecedented times this pledge remains at the forefront of all our minds. The government response to coronavirus has required urgent action across every area of government activity and presented challenges completely outside previous experience.

The response from the Health and Social Services outlines the government's position regarding GP and the flat fees which have introduced, these include children under 5 will be provided services free of charge with a fee of £10 for children and young people aged 5 to 17. Whilst this is a positive step, you know my personal position is that primary health care ought to be free at the point of need for everyone. I will continue to lobby other members to support that position and will continue to support propositions in the Assembly that move in this direction, including extending this to all children as soon as possible, as I believe is their right under article 24 of the UNCRC.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Mézec".

**Senator Sam Mézec**  
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