WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY SENATOR A. BRECKON ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2011

Ouestion

Can the Minister advise whether a formal complaint has been made to the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA) by Clear Mobitel about the anti-competitive behaviour of the Jersey Electricity Company and Newtel Holdings and, if so –

- (a) when was the formal complaint made?
- (b) why has the JCRA not made this matter public?
- (c) is the complaint still being investigated and, if so, by whom and within what timescale?

Does the Minister have confidence in the JCRA as an independent body that will investigate all matters without fear or favour?

Answer

It would be inappropriate to comment on any specific complaint before the JCRA which has been set up by the States of Jersey as an independent competition and regulatory body to investigate such matters independently. However, I understand that-

- (a) Clear Mobitel announced on 16th December 2010 that it had lodged a complaint with the JCRA in regard to Jersey Electricity Company and Newtel Holdings.
- (b) The JCRA does not as a rule publicise or comment upon complaints received. By their nature the majority of complaints require the JCRA to investigate matters which are commercially confidential and may involve mediation between parties which may not be helped by publication of any details.
- (c) While I understand that this complaint is still being considered by the JCRA, it is a matter for the JCRA to consider the timeframe within which such investigations are carried out. I have every confidence that the JCRA will seek to resolve any issues in a timely and effective manner.

I also have every confidence that the JCRA will investigate this matter to the extent required in accordance with the powers available to it under the Law and take whatever action that might be necessary arising from its investigation without fear or favour.