

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ON
TUESDAY 9th DECEMBER 2003, BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. MARTIN**

Question

With reference to answers given by the President on 2nd December 2003, regarding the working relationship between the States of Jersey Police and the Honorary Police, would the President inform members –

- (a) whether much of the uncertainty and misunderstanding would be alleviated if the Jersey Police Authority was functioning in line with that which was approved by the States in May 1998?
- (b) why the Jersey Police Authority is not functioning and what steps have been taken to appoint a chairman and full membership?
- (c) whether the Committee is minded to re-establish the Police Authority, and, if not, whether it is intended that the proposed Memorandum of Understanding will replace it? If the Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to replace the Police Authority would the President inform members of what plans are in hand to ensure that there is a framework of accountability which is not only acceptable to members of both the States and Honorary Police officers but also to the members of the public? and,
- (d) whether the proposed Memorandum of Understanding will allow for the appointment of an Honorary Police Chief to represent the interests of the Honorary Police?

Answer

- (a) As the preamble to the question implies, the question posed on the 2nd December 2003, concerned working relationships. It is doubtful, therefore, whether a policy-making body, be that a police authority or any other, would alleviate uncertainty or misunderstanding in working relationships if these concerns existed.
- (b) When I answered a similar question from the Deputy of St. Martin in March 2003, I informed members that the Committee would be bringing a report to the States outlining proposals for the way forward. On the 22nd July 2003, the Committee presented R.C.35/2003 entitled 'Jersey Police Authority: Review', with an invitation to members to comment on the options outlined in that paper. The Committee received one or two informal comments on that occasion. As this coincided with the summer break, I sent a personal letter to all members on the 26th August 2003, requesting comments on the options given. The Deputy of St. Martin sent me a brief e-mail response on the 1st September 2003, but, other than one other supportive e-mail, I have not had substantive replies from other members. Clearly, steps were not taken to appoint a chairman and full membership while this consultation took place.
- (c) There is no intention to replace the Police Authority with a memorandum of understanding. When the Home Affairs Committee met with the Comité des Connétables on the 1st December 2003, their views were sought on the options outlined in R.C. 35/2003. The Committee will also be seeking the views of H.M. Attorney General, the Centeniers' Association and the Vingteniers' and Constables Officers' Association. Following this, the Committee will bring a report and proposition to the States which will take account of the views expressed by both the Honorary Police and the States of Jersey Police.
- (d) As there is no intention to replace the Police Authority with a memorandum of understanding, this question falls away. However, the Home Affairs Committee would agree with a single person as the conduit for all communication on Honorary Police matters, but this is a matter for the Connétables and not the Home Affairs Committee.