QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 11th MAY 2004, BY SENATOR P.V.F. LE CLAIRE

Question

Would the President advise members –

- (a) whether the Committee will be reviewing the need to tighten border controls amid concerns that individuals granted bail in the U.K. are coming to Jersey pending their U.K. trial, and, if so, provide members with the reasons for this?
- (b) whether the Committee considers Jersey to have become a 'soft-target' for such individuals from the U.K.? and,
- (c) whether the Committee will be taking action regarding this matter, and, if so, what action will be taken?

Answer

(a) At present there is no legal basis for refusing entry to British Citizens wanted on warrant or released on bail from the UK, unless it is a condition of bail that they do not leave the UK.

The Immigration (Jersey) Order 1993, extends certain parts of the British Nationality Act 1981 to Jersey. Jersey is part of the Common Travel Area, which is made up of the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. There is no immigration control for people travelling within this Common Travel Area.

That aside, border controls are tighter now than they have ever been, mainly due to the terrorist threat, and therefore more checks are being carried out which identify such individuals.

- (b) There is no reason to believe that Jersey is any softer a target for such individuals than any other place to which they are free to travel.
- (c) Whilst the terrorist threat continues, tight border controls will be maintained.