WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY DEPUTY S.S.P.A. POWER OF ST. BRELADE

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 29th JANUARY 2008

Question

Will the Minister advise whether the parking control barriers at the car-park at the Elizabeth Terminal have been broken and inoperable for about three months, thereby allowing free 24 hour parking at this car-park and if so, would he confirm when this situation will be rectified ?

Can the Minister estimate the lost income to the Harbours Department?

Answer

The parking control barriers at the Elizabeth Terminal car park were taken out of action in October 2007. The decision was made to remove the barriers and allow free parking at the terminal due to repeated technical problems during 2006 and 2007. This decision was based upon an assessment undertaken in 2007, This assessment suggested that it would cost the department more to maintain the equipment to ensure a reliable operation that would be received in revenue if the situation were allowed to continue.

The suppliers have been to the Island on numerous occasions to repair the system and discussions have been held about extending the maintenance contract or installing a suitable replacement system.

However, in the meantime, a proposal to build a multi-story car park in this area, to alleviate the impact of lost parking capacity at Esplanade Square, has called into question any capital investment into new equipment.

As a consequence a pay card system will be introduced on 1st February 2008 as an interim measure.

This represents the lowest cost option to remedy this situation.

In 2006, the car park generated \pounds 45,000 in revenue. Unfortunately due to machine failures in 2007 revenue was \pounds 15,000.