1240/5(8852)

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER BY DEPUTY S.Y. MÉZEC OF ST. HELIER ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 16th JUNE 2015

Ouestion

Following concerns raised over how seigneurial rights could affect any plans to use the Island's foreshore, would the government consider simply abolishing all feudal rights which still exist in Jersey and, if not, how would be justify the continuation of such rights?

Answer

The Council of Minister's view is that there are no seigneurial rights which would affect the plans to use the foreshore, so the abolition of any remaining rights for such a purpose would be unnecessary.

There is, of course, a precedent in the Seigniorial Rights (Abolition) (Jersey) Law 1966, under which a number of anachronistic feudal rights were abolished. Since such rights may be held by the Seigneurs under, or "of", the Crown, it would be necessary to obtain the Sovereign's consent to any such abolition.

However, abolition of any other rights would need to be justified and I am not currently aware of any legitimate reason to abolish such residual rights as may exist.