WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS BY DEPUTY I. GARDINER OF ST. HELIER QUESTION SUBMITTED ON TUESDAY 1st JUNE 2021 ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 8th JUNE 2021

Question

Will the Minister advise whether it is intended to continue use of the Eastern and Western Ambulance dispatch points and the St. Brelade fire station, once a new Fire and Ambulance station is built in St. Helier?

Answer

The current strategy of using standby dispatch points in the East and West of the island, is likely to be continued once the new Fire & Ambulance Station is built.

Ambulance Standby locations are strategically placed to maximise the response to patients in need in a timely manner by reducing dispatch and travel times from a central, town-based location.

The specific location of the standby points in the East and West are regularly reviewed to ensure efficacy and appropriateness and are changed if external factors prohibit their use. i.e. such as major road works or building works.

The role of the Western Fire Station, as part of the response strategy within the States of Jersey Fire and Rescue Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan, is under continual review. At this time, it is felt that the Western Fire Station provides a useful platform for a proportionate, risk based response for the western parishes and, in particular, the Quennevais conurbation.

In itself, the construction of a new fire station in St. Helier, unless located in the south western part of the parish, is unlikely to remove the need for and benefit of the Western Fire Station. At the same time, locating the St. Helier HQ and station in the very west of the parish would significantly increase response times for northern, central and southern St. Helier where risk and demand is much higher and so officers are advising against this option on that basis.

The utility of the Western Fire Station will remain under constant review and, if risk, demand and response capability changes the profile, officers will advise me accordingly.