

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY DEPUTY R.G.  
LE HÉRISSIER OF ST. SAVIOUR**

**ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 3rd JUNE 2008**

**Question**

What procedures are in place to ensure that local candidates are in place to compete for the position of Air Traffic Controller?

**Answer**

An Air Traffic Controller is a role that is highly specialised and one which requires extensive training and development.

Jersey Airport has a programme in place to train ATCOs (at present there are four trainees on a three year programme), but, from time to time, it is necessary to supplement the team with experienced qualified staff.

The ATC unit does not currently have its full complement of ATCO as not all trainees reach the required standard. The situation is further complicated by a requirement to release a number of experienced controllers to develop and deliver the new ATC centre.

In order to correct the situation the ATS management in conjunction with the Airport Operations Director has formulated the following plan.

1. To introduce a regular and structured liaison with Island schools and careers officers to raise the profile of ATC as a dynamic and rewarding career. This can be achieved by regular school visits and by better promotion of the opportunities available. This plan will enable us to develop our requirement earlier and to correctly service the unit with the trained staff needed.
2. In the short term experienced ATCO are needed in order to deliver trained staff in the shortest possible time. This will re-establish the unit manning at the correct levels and add the flexibility needed to allow the current staff to deliver the new ATC building in 2010. The only option available to deliver staff in this timescale is J cat external recruitment.

Posts are advertised both locally and in the UK. Preference will be given to any locally qualified ATCO who meets the essential criteria for the post, whether currently residing in Jersey or not.