

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND TECHNICAL SERVICES  
BY SENATOR B.E. SHENTON**

**ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 17th JANUARY 2006**

**Question**

Would the Minister inform members –

- (a) whether the current school bus contract has expired and, if so, whether the new contract will be put out to tender and what the expected timetable is? and,
- (b) whether any actions have been taken to recover the £186,802 paid to Connex in respect of shift allowance, (as outlined in Recommendation 6 of R.C. 64/2005 of the former Environment and Public Services Committee – Response to the Committee of Inquiry into the tender process and award of the bus contract), and, if not, advise whether this money will be claimed and when, the reason for the delay, and whether interest will also be claimed?

**Answer**

- (a) The current contract for the provision of school buses expired at the end of the summer term 2005. Since then, discussions have been ongoing with the current operator to ensure the service continues and to consider how best to provide the service in the future.
- (b) The Committee of Inquiry into the Bus Tendering process recommended that the Environment and Public Services Committee should take immediate action to determine whether the £186,802 payment in respect of the shift allowance can be recovered, either from Connex or from any other person. The previous Committee took that action and sought the advice of H.M. Attorney General. When that advice has been received, I will consider the appropriate action to take which, if it is to seek repayment of the monies from Connex, will include the issue of interest.