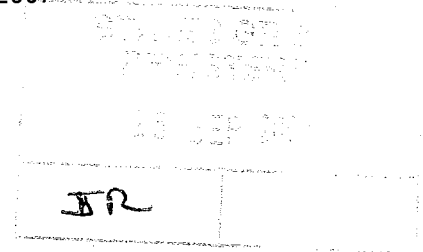


Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel  
Scrutiny Office  
Morier House  
Halkett Place  
St Helier  
Jersey  
JE1 1DD

24th September 2007



Dear Sirs

### **Policing of events**

I am writing to offer my views on the payment for policing of events.

I believe that, in general, the organisers of an event should pay for any costs of bringing additional police support to the islands, and/or significant island police overtime costs, incurred in the meeting of policing requirements for that event. With the increasing pressures on taxpayers funds on the one hand, and the growth in the number of events requiring police attendance on the other, I believe that this would be in line with trends in the UK and other countries. I understand that the principle of this has already been addressed in "user pays" legislation or proposals within the last few years.

In the case of Jersey, I think regard should be had for the level of unpaid honorary policing we have, often involved with the policing of events, and it is partly for this reason that I believe that the level of policing expenses borne by local events should be limited to actual external police support and/or overtime costs incurred.

In general, I can see no case for the taxpayer bearing additional policing costs caused by events. Most "events" effectively cater for special interests (e.g. sport, motor racing) or groups (e.g. Jersey Live which, although no doubt theoretically open to anyone, in practice appeals mainly to teenagers/younger adults), or have some marketing/promotion purpose for the sponsor. For these events, such policing costs should go hand in hand with all the other costs of the event. If financial support towards the cost of an event by the taxpayer is to be considered, then this should be under the normal procedures of Economic Development, Tourism etc and not in the form of an effective taxpayer subsidy by meeting additional policing costs.

I do not consider that there is a case for distinguishing between events in general for the purpose of reimbursement of such additional policing costs. However, the Battle of Flowers, Liberation Day celebrations etc. may be considered more as festivals involving a large part of the community, rather than events only attended by specific paying customers and/or mainly by those with a special interest; or alternatively mounted as a commercial marketing exercise (e.g. by a telephone operator launching its service in the island). In the case of such "festivals", I believe that any specific extra policing costs should be identified by way of accountability, but not actually paid for by the organisers involved.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Yours faithfully

Paul St John Turner