2017.06.20

3.3 Deputy K.C. Lewis of St. Saviour of the Minister for Home Affairs regarding base-jumping from tall buildings in Jersey: [1(354)]

What action, if any, is the Minister taking to dissuade people from base-jumping from tall buildings in Jersey?

Deputy K.L. Moore of St. Peter (The Minister for Home Affairs):

I am aware of one incidence of an individual base jumping from the roof of La Collette flats in May of this year. In response, the States of the Jersey Police issued a joint press release with the Jersey Fire and Rescue Service in order to highlight the dangers of such an activity and to help promote public safety. In addition, the Prison Me! No Way! programme have subsequently included the topic of base jumping from tall buildings in lessons that they deliver to young people in school in years 10 to 12, in order to highlight the dangers and risks involved for individuals and bystanders. With regard to the specific incident that is being referred to, I believe that the police have given consideration to the circumstances in the video and that no offences have been identified.

3.3.1 Deputy K.C. Lewis:

I thank the Minister for her reply but considering the dangers involved there is such a short space of time between the person jumping and the parachute opening that the parachute is deployed from the parachute bag, thrown to one side, as the person jumps.

[10:00]

So if the parachute does not open within a matter of seconds there will be a fatality and a reserve chute is completely out of the question. I thank the Minister for her reply but will she also be consulting Andium Homes, et cetera, to make sure that the rooftops of such buildings are firmly secured?

The Deputy of St. Peter:

I agree with the Deputy that it was indeed a very risky performance because it seemed to be such, and the person was putting themselves at considerable personal risk. The police have been in discussions with Andium Homes and the locks have been changed on all entrance points to the roofs of our high rise buildings.