

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT BY DEPUTY  
P.V.F. LE CLAIRE OF ST. HELIER  
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 28TH APRIL 2009**

**Question**

“On how many occasions, if any, over the last 5 years have licences been issued by the Planning and Environment Department to the Transport and Technical Services Department in respect of discharging effluent into controlled waters?

- (a) Would the Minister advise the exact dates and time periods when such discharges occurred?
- (b) Were discharges of effluent permitted under the licenses at times when the tide was below the St. Aubin Pier outflow?
- (c) What was the estimated volume of effluent discharged on each occasion?
- (d) During discharges of effluent on these occasions what monitoring, if any, occurred; by whom was this undertaken and what were the results?
- (e) Where did this monitoring occur and can the Minister provide these as an appendix?
- (f) What, if any, are the long term plans for managing this on-going series of discharges of effluent into our environment?
- (g) Is the Minister aware of any scientific evidence that discharges of effluent can harm the environment and/or be of a danger to human health?
- (h) What notifications, if any, are required when discharging effluent into a Ramsar site or next to one?
- (i) What tests, if any, are undertaken to ensure there is no impact on the Ramsar environment, who conducts the tests and who certifies them?

**Answer**

Only one licence has been issue to TTS during the last five years. This was a composite discharge permit (No. DP(B) 2007/04/02) for the following pumping stations: Bas Du Marrais, La Frontiere, La Rue Du Port, Le Douet, Les Augerez, Les Fontaines, Les Ormes, Portinfer, and Thistlegrove.

Sections (a) – (i) of the Deputy’s question are not applicable to that particular discharge permit, however they do relate to a different permit issued to TTS in respect of the Bellozanne Sewage Treatment Works. This permit was first issued in 2000 when the Water Pollution (Jersey) Law 2000 came into force. When applied to this permit, the answers are as follows:

- (a) The sewage treatment works discharges effluent 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- (b) Yes. The sewage treatment works discharge effluent 24 hours a days, 365 days a year, regardless of tide levels.
- (c) The maximum permitted volume of discharge shall not exceed 95,040 m<sup>3</sup> / day. The rate of discharge shall not exceed 1100 l/s.

- (d) The permit holder (TTS) carry out their own sampling and testing for operational purposes. In our role as regulator the Planning and Environment department take regular samples and this is prescribed under the conditions of the discharge permit. Independent of this discharge permit we also conduct bathing water sampling throughout the bathing water season at Victoria Pool and La Haule and have undertaken a monitoring programme of surface water outfalls which included First Tower Outfall. The results are available on public record and are too numerous (there are over 10 years of bathing water data alone) to include in an appendix to this response. We would however be happy to discuss these results in a meeting with the Deputy.
- (e) For the purposes of the Discharge Permit, samples are collected from the Ultra Violet treatment plant prior to discharge into the Bellozanne culvert / stream. General samples are collected from the out fall and receiving waters respectively.
- (f) The long term plans for managing sewage treatment on the island will be dealt with by the Liquid Waste strategy from TTS. The regulator will continue to monitor the discharge in accordance with the discharge permit as described above.
- (g) Yes. There is considerable scientific evidence that discharges of “effluents” can be harmful to both environment and human health. This is however dependent on the specific composition of the effluent which is regulated by the consent conditions.
- (h) No specific notifications are required unless there is going to be a significant impact on the ecology of the site.
- (i) The programme of general monitoring carried out by Planning and Environment includes monitoring on bathing waters, shellfish, heavy metals in key indicator species, and outfall monitoring to sea. These samples are collected by Planning and Environment, they are analysed by the States Official Analyst and assessed internally in respect of the use to which they will be put. e.g. Bathing Water quality and grading of shellfish.

Long term changes to the ecology of the Ramsar site will be picked up by the periodic survey of the site's ecology which the Department commission from time to time. The most recent survey was carried out by Plymouth Marine Laboratories in March 2009 and the results are still being collated.