

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2003, BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN**

Question

Would the President advise members –

- (a) whether the high level meetings in Guernsey and in the United Kingdom to discuss the Guernsey Fishing Licensing Scheme have taken place, and, if so, the outcomes?
- (b) whether the Committee's budget will provide financial assistance to those fishermen appealing to fish within Guernsey waters, and if not, state the reasons why? and
- (c) whether a number of Jersey fishing licences have been issued to Guernsey fishermen recently and if so, would he supply details?

Answer

- (a) The meetings between Guernsey and the United Kingdom have not taken place yet due to key people being on leave. I am hopeful that a meeting with the Guernsey authorities will occur soon and in the meantime a meeting between officers of the Jersey Licensing authority and DEFRA will be taking place on 1st December 2003.
- (b) The Committee has considered the question of financial assistance and after consultation with the Law Officers' Department, it has agreed that individual fishermen should not be given financial assistance when making appeals against refusals to their licence applications.
- (c) No Jersey fishing licences have been issued to Guernsey fishermen. However, our stance is that we would like to issue a pool of say 30 non-transferable licences to Guernsey fishermen and have a pool of 30 non-transferable Guernsey licences for Jersey fishermen, thus ensuring that the historic activity of the Guernsey and Jersey fleets fishing in each other's waters is safeguarded into the future. This is proving very difficult to negotiate.