

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIRMAN, COMITÉ DES CONNÉTABLES
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 4th DECEMBER 2007

Question

Given that the St. Helier electoral register for the coming election for Connétable contains only around 14,000 names, will the Chairman advise the Assembly what actions, if any the Connétables will be taking to ensure improved registers in all parishes in time for the October/November 2008 elections?

Answer

The Public Elections (Jersey) Law 2002 requires the Connétable to write to every unit of dwelling accommodation each year to ascertain the names of those who are eligible under the law to be registered to vote in public elections. If no response is received, a further two reminders are sent to the address. The Connétables will be undertaking this exercise in spring 2008 and envisage that publicity will be undertaken at this time to remind all persons of the autumn 2008 elections.

The number of persons registered will vary on a daily basis as a person has a duty to register once they satisfy the eligibility criteria. New 3-year registers started in July 2006 and we expect the numbers registered to gradually increase during the life of the registers.

The Judicial Greffe advertises, four times a year in accordance with the law, the requirement for people to register as electors. A high profile campaign was funded by the States during the summer 2005 to encourage more persons to register prior to the elections and this helped to boost the number on the registers. I do not know if the States intend to repeat this exercise in 2008.