

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS BY DEPUTY S.S.P.A. POWER OF ST. BRELADE

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 13th JUNE 2008

Question

“Can the Minister confirm whether –

- (a) all States of Jersey Police Cadets now have all their basic training completed in Jersey?
- (b) whether any use of made of Police Training Colleges such as Ashford in Kent and, if not, why?
- (c) whether any provision is made to allow Jersey Police Officers to carry out police work and study in the UK with UK police forces for training and experience purposes?
- (d) whether any provision is made for Jersey Police Cadets and Jersey Police Officers to study and become familiar with UK Criminal Law, as well as Jersey Law?”

Answer

- (a) New officers are not cadets; they are sworn in police officers from the commencement of their training.

As is now the case with all UK forces, the States of Jersey Police are responsible for providing their own foundation training for new police officers. The States of Jersey Police have been running the in-house foundation training since July 2005.

This is an extensive fifteen week training programme, which provides inputs on local law and procedures from week one. A number of practical tasks are included to assess each officer on their ability to put into practice the classroom based lessons. This knowledge is further tested in formal law based examinations. Some of these practical tasks are conducted in public areas, for example the pocket notebook exercise is conducted in the town area and officers ask members of the public a number of questions.

Fitness and officer safety are key parts of the programme.

Community involvement in the force’s training programme is a vital component and includes as examples: working with staff from the Shelter as an exercise about a drunken person; working with DVS in respect of road checks and Construction and Use offences.

- (b) No. This is because these centres are now closed and the National Policing Improvement Agency (formerly Centrex) is no longer responsible for providing any national police foundation training. To ensure an independent verification of the progress of the recruits trained in house, the States of Jersey Police have an arrangement with the Police Service of Northern Ireland to assess and report on each course at its conclusion.
- (c) New officers first gain some experience of another Police Force when, at the end of their foundation course they travel to Belfast, where they undertake and are assessed on a series of practical tasks. These tasks are used to validate the training conducted locally, as mentioned above. Whilst there, local officers also gain a valuable insight into the sensitivities of policing diverse communities particularly in the case of Belfast.

The States of Jersey Police regularly send officers away on training courses to the United Kingdom and elsewhere. For example, new CID officers undertake their initial CID training course in United Kingdom.

Senior Investigating Officers also attend courses in the United Kingdom. The States of Jersey Police is aware of the advantages and benefits of receiving such training and linking into the relevant experience available in the United Kingdom. These are only two examples of the many courses States of Jersey Police officers attend in the United Kingdom.

Some States of Jersey Police officers have undertaken secondments to various UK forces to develop either specialist skills or gain a wider experience of policing. For example, the States of Jersey Police have regularly provided assistance to Dorset Police by sending a specialist search team to assist with their policing operation for political party conferences.

The force is committed to developing staff to provide the best possible policing service to the Island, as well as providing opportunities for senior officers to develop and compete for senior positions locally.

- (d) The foundation course focuses on Jersey Law which is, after all, the law in force in the Island where they will police. This is a considerable advantage over previous UK-based training which taught recruits English Law, requiring them to be effectively re-trained in Jersey Law upon their return. Nonetheless, Jersey Law often relies on the 'jurisprudence of the UK courts', and case studies take this into account.