WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY DEPUTY G.C.L. BAUDAINS OF ST. CLEMENT ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2013

Question

Would the Minister advise whether the filming of 'Knights of Impossingworth' has now started and, if so, where is this taking place and when is the film due to be completed?

Would he also advise whether it is now suggested that the film will be shot entirely in Jersey and, if so, whether his Department will be increasing its grant as a consequence?

Would the Minister also clarify whether the title of the film has now changed and, if so, whether that has any implications with regard to the contract between the Department and the film makers?

Finally, if filming has not yet started, would the Minister advise precisely how long he intends to allow slippage to continue before activating the 'claw-back' clause in the contract?

Answer

Canbedone Productions Limited advised the Economic Development Department that initial test filming was undertaken in September 2013.

Based on the latest filming schedule, supplied to EDD on 21st October 2013, forwarded to the Public Accounts Committee on 4th November 2013, filming is due to commence on or around Monday 27th January 2014. In addition, Canbedone Productions Limited have been in detailed discussion with Jersey Heritage and others regarding the use of locations including Hamptonne, Mont Orgueil and the Dolmen

The filming schedule and budget documentation supplied by Canbedone Productions Limited confirms that the film will be shot entirely in Jersey (comprising 40 days on location) which satisfies, indeed exceeds, the original intention of the grant awarded to Canbedone Productions Limited. EDD continues to support the film production but that support has not included additional direct funding.

Reflecting the fact that the film will be shot entirely on location in Jersey, the working title "Knights of Impossingworth" has been changed to "The Crystal Island". EDD was advised of and agreed to the change of title which, with a direct reference to "Island", will allow a stronger link to be made between the film and Jersey as the filming location.

In the Minister's response to the PAC report into the grant advanced to Canbedone Productions Limited the Minister indicated that, if no material progress had been made by 30th September 2013, steps would be taken to recover the grant. It is clear from all information available to the Department that material progress has been made.