

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 1st MARCH 2005

Question

On page 17 of the Jersey Evening Post of 1st February 2005 there was a list of planning applications, and, on page 32, under 'Classified', there was also a full page of planning applications. Would the President advise members whether the Committee paid for both insertions and, if so, of the total cost to the taxpayer, and explain the criteria used to determine the space required, as 25 applications appeared on a full page advertisement whereas 14 applications appeared on only a quarter of a page?

Answer

The Jersey Evening Post advised the Committee it intended to change the way in which it advertised planning applications. In short, the Jersey Evening Post decided it would not publish the complete list of applications sent by the Department. Consequently the Committee decided it had no choice but to takeout payable space to advertise all applications.

Concerning the adverts that appeared on 1st February 2005, the Committee did not pay for either. The list on page 17 was the last one to appear as editorial text in the main section of the newspaper, for which the Committee has never been charged. The list on page 32 in the Gazette was the first to be printed in such a format, for which charge will usually be levied. However, this particular advert was printed free of charge, as it consisted of applications which the newspaper had omitted from previous lists.

The Committee has decided that it will in future publish them in the Gazette of the Jersey Evening Post. This will take place once a week (on a Tuesday) in a new format. The annual cost is estimated to be around £30,000.