

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2003, BY SENATOR E.P. VIBERT**

Question

Would the President inform members –

- (a) why it was necessary to give the code name 'Project Atlantis', as quoted in Committee Minutes, relating to the negotiations being carried out with representatives of Les Pas Holdings Limited, and whether the use of such a code name fits in with the Committee's policy of open, honest and accountable government?
- (b) how much has been paid in fees to Mourant, du Feu and Jeune for their services for legal advice and representation since they were appointed to act on behalf of the States and the Receiver General in relation to the litigation involving Les Pas?
- (c) whether the Committee has agreed with the Receiver General that the Crown will be paying one third of the total legal costs of this action?

Answer

- (a) Members will recognise that 'without prejudice' discussions of the type undertaken by this Committee and its predecessor, and being held within the context of such a complex legal position, must of necessity be kept highly confidential. The use of the codename 'Project Atlantis', was merely an additional precaution taken in case any confidential minutes or documents inadvertently went astray.
- (b) £1,565,500.
- (c) As has been the position for very many years, the net annual income from the Crown Estates in the Island is sent to the Crown in London and thereafter remitted to the States of Jersey. At its meeting of 20th February 1996, the then Policy and Resources Committee accepted a proposal by the Home Office that the litigation costs should be apportioned in such a manner that the States would pay two-thirds of the total, and the Crown would pay the remaining third. This provided cash flow advantages for the States because income which would otherwise have been sent to London and later remitted was by virtue of this agreement applied locally to the immediate payment of the legal costs incurred in the litigation.