

2.10 Deputy J.H. Young of the Chairman of the Comité des Connétables regarding whether the owners of vacant properties were liable under the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005:

Consistency requires me to make the same declaration as I did on my previous one. Will the Chairman inform the Assembly whether the owners of the 3,103 properties reported as vacant in the 2011 census were liable under the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005 to a rates charge equivalent to that payable had these properties been occupied and, if not, would he be willing to discuss proposals for an equivalent “empty rate” with the Comité and the Minister for Treasury and Resources?

Connétable J.LeS. Gallichan of Trinity (Chairman of the Comité des Connétables):

Maybe I should also say I am property owner. Basically I would like to confirm to the Deputy that all properties, if they are vacant also, have exactly the same rate payment. There is no free rates, they all pay rates whether they are occupied or unoccupied.

2.10.1 Deputy J.H. Young:

I thank the Chairman for the answer but in view of the article in the Parish Rates Law I am puzzled by it because I would like him to clarify how an occupier can pay rates if they are not identified on the register?

The Connétable of Trinity:

I will explain. It is the landlord that pays the full rates, not the occupier. Obviously if they are unoccupied the owner of the property pays the full rates for the year.