

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ON
TUESDAY 18th MARCH 2003, BY SENATOR L. NORMAN**

Question

- (a) How many members of the local Territorial Army Unit have been 'called up' in the past few weeks for possible service as a result of the situation involving Iraq?;
- (b) how many of these members returned home because they were unfit for duty?;
- (c) would the President give details of exactly what made them unfit for duty and indicate why their lack of fitness was not recognised before they left for the United Kingdom?;
- (d) what costs were incurred in transporting these members to and from the UK and who has had to meet these abortive costs?

Answer

- (a) 10 Personnel were mobilised.
- (b) Appeals: Two of those who were called up appealed directly and did not travel to the UK. One is the sole carer for his disabled daughter, and the other shares the care of his disabled son, whilst his wife completes her studies.

Request for Postponement: One soldier applied for a two-week postponement as his partner had just given birth to their first child. The MOD would not consider postponements for any mobilised soldiers, and consequently the mobilisation centre returned the soldier to Jersey.

Medicals: The following cases were found:

Hernia
Stomach ulcer
Chest infection
Chest infection with possible asthma
One minor shoulder injury

Leaving two to be retained for service.

- (c) These details show these medical cases to be minor and the individuals concerned were unaware of medical problems. All five medical cases are currently being reviewed and it is likely that the majority will return to being medically fit in the near future. It should be noted that the issue of fitness refers to medical fitness and not physical fitness. Those who were mobilised had recently completed their mandatory military training for this year, which included a fitness assessment.
- (d) The cost of transporting members of the Territorial Army to and from the UK was approximately £1,500 and an approach has been made to the MOD for these costs to be reimbursed.