

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
BY DEPUTY S.C. FERGUSON OF ST. BRELADE**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 13TH MAY 2008

Question

Will the Minister give:

- a) the total costs of the towing away of vehicles for 2005, 2006 and 2007 as instructed by the police and on their account, by year,
- b) the total reimbursements payable by owners of those vehicles for the same periods
- c) the amount still outstanding for collection from the owners of those vehicles.
- d) The number of vehicles towed away under police instructions and orders per year for 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Answer

- a) The total costs of the towing away of vehicles for 2005, 2006 and 2007 as instructed by the police and on their account, by year follows:

2005	£22,405
<u>2006</u>	<u>£27,212</u>
<u>2007</u>	<u>£38,840</u>

- b) The total reimbursements payable by owners of those vehicles for the same periods.

Where a vehicle is involved in a minor traffic accident and the States Police send a recovery vehicle to the scene, the Police are not liable for the cost. The recovery company bills the owner direct.

Vehicles that have been recovered by police after being stolen or sent to DVS for examination are those in respect of which cost recovery has, in the past, not been made from owners. However, following a review of the States of Jersey Police's vehicle recovery policy, it has been identified that current legislation was not being used to its full extent to recover the cost in this category of vehicle recoveries. It was also established that whilst the audit trail under the current system identified and verified each request by police for a vehicle to be recovered, it sometimes did not distinguish the category of recovery and therefore those liable for the cost. As a result, the States of Jersey Police do not have figures available for cost recovery from vehicle owners for the years in question. A new draft police vehicle recovery policy has been developed which will address these issues.

- c) The amount still outstanding for collection from the owners of those vehicles.

Not available for the reasons previously stated.

- d) The number of vehicles towed away under police instructions and orders per year for 2005, 2006 and 2007 follows:

<u>2005</u>	- 373
<u>2006</u>	- 453
<u>2007</u>	- 647