

STATES OF JERSEY



POLICE STATION RELOCATION: REVIEW OF DECISION (P.92/2012) – COMMENTS

**Presented to the States on 5th March 2013
by the Minister for Housing**

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

I thought it would be helpful for Members if I clarified where I stood in respect of P.92/2012. I fully endorse the comments of the Council of Ministers, and in particular would highlight the following –

- The States of Jersey Police have waited far too long for appropriate facilities. Modern-day policing cannot be expected to continue in premises that are simply not fit for purpose. We expect the highest of standards from the States of Jersey Police and therefore we must ensure that they have the facilities to do this. Green Street car park gives us that opportunity.
- The Proposition offers no viable alternative. Not proceeding with this site would cause considerable delay. I do not see how we can continue to avoid difficult decisions in the hope that something more palatable will emerge. It will not. As George Canning said (former British Prime Minister), ‘Indecision and delays are the parents of failure’. How true. I believe strongly that P.92/2012 is proposing just that, ‘indecision and delay’. That is not good government.
- The relocation of the States of Jersey Police to this site would allow the timely development of the Summerland and Ambulance Station sites. This could generate some 150 two-bedroom rental homes. We have a need right now for some 816 new rental units. That is a net gain requirement. I cannot emphasize too strongly the need to increase supply and to start making decisions to do that now. States-owned land enables that to happen. The decision therefore to support a Police Station at Green Street allows for the delivery of a desperately needed facility for our Police Service, unlocks a site for much-needed homes and is a much-needed boost for our construction industry. We really cannot afford any further delay.

Statement under Standing Order 37A [Presentation of comment relating to a proposition]

I apologise for the late submission of my comments, which has been due to the extensive work I have been undertaking in order to be able to lodge my Proposition and Report: ‘The Reform of Social Housing’ on 4th March, and also regrettably a period of ill-health with a member of my family.