

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE
BY THE CONNETABLE OF ST. HELIER**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 16th MAY 2006

Question

Would the Minister inform members how it has been possible for £250,000 extra funding to be found from within the Department's existing revenue budget to cover the cost of top-up fees for the first term of the next academic year?

Answer

When the Council of Ministers made the recommendation that the £1,350 per annum 'top up' fees levied by U.K. universities should not be passed onto students, or their parents, from September 2006 no decision was taken as to how the shortfall in funding would be met. However, I have committed to bring forward a new higher education funding strategy for consideration by the Council of Ministers during 2006 which will include measures to reduce the overspend in 2006 and beyond, and the evaluation of the possible introduction of student loans from September 2007.