

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

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 25th APRIL 2006

Question

Would the Minister inform members –

- (a) of the date when the decision was taken to build a nursery unit as part of the rebuilding of St Peter's Primary School?,
- (b) supply the capital and revenue costs for the nursery unit?
- (c) whether discussions were held with the Parish over the feasibility of using existing premises in the area to avoid the expense of new build?
- (d) whether he took into account the impact of the new free States nursery on private sector nurseries in the West of the Island?

Answer

- (a) The decision to build a nursery class as part of St. Peter's Primary School was taken by the former Education Committee in 1999 when it made an unsuccessful bid for its inclusion in the States Capital Programme. A further bid was agreed by the Committee in December 2002 and, early in 2003 this scheme was included in the States Capital programme.

In October 2005, the Committee agreed a feasibility study for the scheme and in February 2006 the Minister approved the submission to a detailed planning application.

- (b) The cost of the nursery class will be £225,000. The annual revenue cost will be £90,000.
- (c) Discussions have not taken place with the Parish over the feasibility of using existing premises in the area because the intention is to provide a nursery class for educational reasons; to prepare three and four year olds for starting school.
- (d) The policy to continue building nursery classes to provide young children with an educational experience was approved by the States in 1996. These classes offer a term-time only experience during school hours. It is anticipated that many working parents will continue to need the year round, all day child care provision offered by the private sector.