WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY THE CONNÉTABLE OF ST. JOHN ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2012

Question

Were any benefits, such as free dining at home matches, agreed when the £75,000 grant was made to the Jersey Rugby Club and, if so, who will enjoy such hospitality at the taxpayers' expense?

Answer

For the purposes of clarification, the £75,000 the Connétable refers to relates to a sponsorship initiative, not a grant. As is standard practise when entering into a sponsorship initiative, the sponsor gains benefits in return for financial support. In this case, the benefits accrued are significant marketing opportunities for both Jersey Tourism and Locate Jersey to bolster tourism in the off-season and to provide an exploitable platform for attracting inward investment and high net worth individuals.

The marketing opportunities secured through this sponsorship include the potential for a table at home matches. This will be used by Locate Jersey for business development purposes to exploit potential investment opportunities. A Departmental policy has been put in place so that there is a maximum of two hosts per table of ten, with the remainder being investors or potential investors. Local intermediaries will only be included in any corporate hospitality opportunity if they are accompanied by a potential investor.