

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENIRONMENT BY DEPUTY
S.S.P.A. POWER OF ST. BRELADE**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 13th MAY 2008

Question

1. Can the Minister confirm that before a motorhome can be registered in the Island, in accordance with the Planning and Building (Jersey) Law 2002, a copy of the relevant permit, issued by the Minister for Planning and Environment must be sent to the Driver and Vehicle Standards Department and to the person wishing to register the vehicle or import the vehicle?
2. Can the Minister confirm that once the vehicle is registered, that he can attach any condition restricting where the motorhome can be stationed or used?
3. Can the Minister advise whether there exists a policy regarding the use of and parking of such vehicles exceeding 2.3 metres in width?
4. Can the Minister confirm how many permits have been applied for to import motorhomes/caravans since the end of 2002 and how many permits have been issued under the Planning and Building Law 2002?
5. Can the Minister confirm how many meetings, if any, his Department has had with the Driver and Vehicle Standards department to discuss the number of motorhomes/caravans currently imported into the Island and registered since 2002?
6. Will the Minister undertake to find out how many vehicles, either caravans, motorhomes or dormobiles are in the Island and will he undertake to ensure that these vehicles are parked on private property, either the property of the owner or on private property that the owner has access to for parking and storage by agreement?"

Answer

1. The relevant permit is sent to the applicant. Whilst there is no requirement in the Planning and Building (Jersey) Law 2002 to notify the Driver and Vehicle Standards Department, this is done in any event as a matter of good practice.
2. The Minister for Planning and Environment can attach a condition under the Law to the importation of a caravan. The Law requires that any such condition "shall fairly and reasonably relate to the importation of the caravan or the use of the caravan on the Island."
3. No such policy exists within the remit of the Minister for Planning and Environment. The width of vehicles is a matter for the Driver and Vehicle Standards Department. It is understood that the main criteria used by that Department in issuing any size exemption permit for any vehicle is whether granting such a permit is in the public interest as a whole and not just to the individual making any application. Permits issued for an oversized motor home are granted on a restricted movement basis from the docks to the owner's home and vice versa and to a garage for servicing, but not for general circulation within the Island.
4. Since 2002, a total of 152 permits have been issued for motorhomes and 19 for caravans. Anecdotally, the Department is aware that many of these vehicles are routinely kept out of the Island and only brought back for repair or sale.
5. Whilst no such meetings have been held within this timescale, officers of each Department are in regular contact.

6. The Minister for Planning and Environment is aware that there are currently 692 motor homes and 128 caravans licenced in the Island. The duty of the Minister in this matter is to properly control the importation of such vehicles. It is not for the Minister to enforce a particular storage regime on the owners of such vehicles, unless there is a particular planning reason to do so. If, as is inferred by the question, there is perceived to be a mounting problem with the improper storage of caravans on public land, then that is a matter for the relevant States Department or Parish which administers such land.