

Submission received by email, 02.11.12

Dear Deputy Macon,

I note that the Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel will be looking into whether the proposed site for the SOJP HQ will meet the needs of the force in the years to come. I would like to give my strongly held opinion on the matter and hope that this may be put before your panel in due course.

The location of the proposed site, whether we are looking at the long or short term, is simply unsuitable; the choice must not be driven by political expediency, or inertia. Situated such that most police vehicles and visitors going to and from the site will have to negotiate an already busy roundabout, it makes no sense to locate what will be an important and busy HQ on the Green Street site. This bad situation is only exacerbated by the fact that many of the vehicles coming and going, often in an emergency 'blue light' mode will then have to negotiate the tunnel when their business is to the west of St Helier. The tunnel, as most road users are well aware, is already something of a bottleneck with hazards created by pedestrian crossings at each end and traffic filtering in from Green Street. It takes little imagination to visualise the chaos that would result when there is an accident or breakdown in the tunnel and emergency vehicles are trying to get through.

A quick look at a map of Jersey showing the distribution of the island's population shows that the 'centre of gravity' of the island is to the west of the tunnel and surely this is where the HQs of all the emergency services should be located. Fire and Ambulance already meet this criterion. One very obvious location for a SOJP HQ would be on the waterfront where there is plenty of space for a state-of the-art HQ, with parking and expansion potential.

You have already alluded to reservations you hold about the proposed Green Street site with regard to expansion of the facility into the longer term future. This is a very important consideration when population and commercial growth are taken into account. Police work can only become busier as our primary industry grows in sophistication.

And finally, why hit the motorist (yet again) with the eradication of yet more parking spaces?

There seems to be little rationale to support the Green Street site for a new Police HQ, other than emotion and self-interest. There HAS to be a better solution. I hope that your Scrutiny Panel will take these views into consideration and come up with irrefutable rationale and compelling recommendations.

Regards

Christopher C Le Cornu