

3.21 The Deputy of St. John of the Minister for Transport and Technical Services regarding high-friction surfaces on Victoria Avenue.

I must say I am disappointed, Sir, that you have not put it to the vote. As Victoria Avenue was recently re-engineered and resurfaced why has it been found necessary to lay high-friction surfaces at many of the junctions. Also please give the cost of this work and the life of the materials used.

Connétable M.K. Jackson of St. Brelade (The Minister for Transport and Technical Services):

If I can answer at speed. High collision rates statistics dictates a requirement for the approaches to junctions on a 40 mile an hour dual carriageway to have high friction characteristics. In practice the only means of achieving this requirement is to lay high friction surfacing as provided at present on the Avenue and I might refer to part (c) of my answer to the Deputy of St. Mary's written question which talks about prioritising. Clearly minimising traffic disruption in the summer months is a major consideration for T.T.S. However, the successful application of this product requires low humidity, perhaps not so good for today, limiting the laying season to the current period. In addition volatiles in the asphalt prevent the resin used in the material from forming a bond immediately that resurfacing is completed, so consequently the best practice requires the asphalt to be left for at least 3 months, precluding the laying of the high-friction surfacing during the re-surfacing contract. The cost of materials for Victoria Avenue is approximately £19,000. Lifecycle planning attributes a typical lifespan of these products of between 5 and 7 years.

The Deputy Bailiff:

That brings question time to an end.

The Deputy of St. John:

But, Sir, you gave other Members up to 15 minutes to answer a question. I put a question and you had 22 questions, Sir, in total. You could have balanced them out at 5 minutes each and had time to play with.

[16:45]

The Deputy Bailiff:

Life is sometimes very unfair, but it is not so very unfair on this occasion because the Minister is up for questions without notice very shortly.

Deputy G.P. Southern:

Could I ask the Chief Minister to give me a written answer to my question, Sir?

The Deputy Bailiff:

The Chief Minister is nodding. I see Deputy Higgins has momentarily left the Assembly but he held his hands up as his telephone went off and I mention this so that the Greffier has this note for the purposes of the customary fine.

The Deputy of St. Mary:

I certify that is correct, Sir.