

**QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ON  
TUESDAY 4th MARCH 2003, BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. MARTIN**

**Question**

1. With regard to Part E, page 9 of the Constitution of the States of Jersey, otherwise referred to as the 'green sheets', last printed on 7th February 2003, and which page refers to the constitution of the Jersey Police Authority, will the President advise members regarding –
  - (a) the position of the Chairman of the Jersey Police Authority, which appears to have been vacant since the retirement of the last Chairman in the Summer of 2001, and the steps taken since that time to appoint a replacement chairman, and when an appointment is likely to be made?
  - (b) the position of the two members of the Jersey Police Authority, appointed from the Home Affairs Committee, and the two members from the Comité des Connétables, which appear to be vacant, and the reasons for the delays  
? and,
  - (c) the position of the two Independent Members of the Jersey Police Authority, which appear to be vacant since the expiry of the term of office of the previous Members on 31st August 2002, and when appointments will be made in this respect?

**Answer**

- (a) The position of Chairman of the Jersey Police Authority remains vacant. Members will be aware of the great difficulties that have been experienced in finding a person of the right calibre who is willing to take on the post of Chairman with responsibility for moving the Authority forward. Since the last permanent Chairman retired, there have been two recruiting campaigns to identify willing volunteers. The first produced two suitable candidates as lay members, neither of whom was willing to take on the role of Chairman. A subsequent campaign in June 2002 resulted in no interest whatsoever. Outside of these campaigns, the Committee has sought, without success, to identify a suitable person who might want to take on the post. Eventually, an excellent candidate did come forward last autumn of his own volition. Having carried out his own enquiries into the role of the Jersey Police Authority and the responsibilities of the post, he remained unconvinced that the establishment of a Police Authority, as envisaged by P.49/1998, was necessary. Consequently, although wishing to actively maintain his interest in policing matters, he did not wish to pursue nomination for the post of Chairman. He reached these conclusions last autumn in the run up to the elections. Since the formation of the present Home Affairs Committee in December 2002, new members have undertaken an induction process which included briefing on the difficulties experienced hitherto with the establishment of a Jersey Police Authority. I shall explain the steps that the Committee will now take in the answer to Question 2.
- (b) It will be apparent to Members that the activities of the Jersey Police Authority have been dormant for some time. The Home Affairs Committee has yet to nominate two members for reasons which will become clear in the answer to Question 2. Constable Amy and Constable Vibert, who is also the Vice-President of the Home Affairs Committee, are the current sitting members of the Jersey Police Authority but their continued appointments would need to be approved by the States assuming that they wished to continue as members.
- (c) There are two prospective Independent Members whose names could be put forward for approval by the States and, again, I shall cover the timing of these appointments in my answer to Question 2.

## Question 2

2.

On 19th May 1998, the States approved the establishment of a Jersey Police Authority which has yet to be established by law.

- (a) Will the President give the reasons for the delay in its legal establishment, and,
- (b) will the President advise members of the steps the Committee will be taking to ensure that the Jersey Police Authority is functioning not only in accordance with the recommendations contained in P. 184/1996 – ‘Police Services in Jersey: independent review’, adopted by the States on 5th November 1996, but also in accordance with P. 49/1998 as amended.

## Answer

- (a) There are three principal reasons for the delay in the Police Authority’s legal establishment and these have all been reported to the States on a previous occasion. Firstly, it lost its Chairman, Mr. Rumboll, due to illness. This was at a critical time in the development of measures to give the Jersey Police Authority legal identity and it has suffered from the loss of continuity ever since and the inability to find another Chairman. Secondly, the Authority’s project officer left the post a year ago but the previous Committee was reluctant to recruit a replacement, mainly on the grounds of cost, until the position of Chairman had been resolved. Thirdly, the task of achieving legal establishment is more formidable than was first realised with over fifty pieces of primary legislation needing to be altered.
- (b) The new Home Affairs Committee is determined to see that the problems that have beset the Jersey Police Authority are resolved as soon as possible. The Committee needs to take stock of the reasons for the delay given in my previous answer, in particular the likelihood that the task in setting up the Jersey Police Authority was under-estimated at the outset and that insufficient resources were devoted to it. Time has moved on since the States resolved to establish a Jersey Police Authority and I believe, therefore, that the Committee also has to consider an Authority in the context of a Ministerial system of government. These are important issues which require careful thought by members. To inform that debate, I have asked for a position paper to be prepared for the Committee’s consideration next month. Shortly after, I will undertake to bring a report to the States outlining proposals for the way forward.