

2015.03.24

4.9 Deputy S.Y. Mézec of the Minister for Treasury and Resources regarding progress made in finding a suitable public or community use for Piquet House:

What progress, if any, has the Minister made to find a suitable public or community use for Piquet House, following the States approval on 19th March 2014 of P.16/2014 Piquet House: cancellation of sale and future use?

The Bailiff:

Assistant Minister ...

Senator A.J.H. Maclean:

No, Sir, you were a bit quick off the mark, I am afraid.

The Bailiff:

I thought you nodded when I was ...

Senator A.J.H. Maclean (The Minister for Treasury and Resources):

I was nodding to say I was going to take this one at the request of the Deputy specifically. The property comprising 11 Royal Square and Piquet House has been identified as an excellent location for a new tourism centre by Visit Jersey following expressions of interest. Jersey Property Holdings are currently discussing terms of occupation with Visit Jersey.

Deputy S.Y. Mézec:

No, supplementary. Just that I am delighted with that answer.

4.9.1 Deputy J.A.N. Le Fondré:

Could the Minister clarify why negotiations with the Royal British Legion were not maintained with a view to their leasing of the building because I had understood they had expressed an interest quite some time ago?

Senator A.J.H. Maclean:

The Deputy is quite correct and indeed on the cards was a possible land swap as well. But that was back in, if I remember correctly, the period from October 2013 and Members will recall that it came to this Assembly the proposal to sell the property, and that was the area that the Royal British Legion were particularly interested in. As I understand it, Jersey Property Holdings went out to expressions of interest. There were a number of expressions of interest but, as I have just pointed out, Visit Jersey was deemed to be the most appropriate and negotiations are ongoing.

4.9.2 Connétable J.E. Le Maistre of Grouville:

I wonder if the Minister could confirm whether Tourism will be paying a full market value rent for the property.

Senator A.J.H. Maclean:

I can confirm that they will be certainly paying a rent. The detail of the rent will be a matter for negotiation, but I would expect it to be close to market rent, yes.