

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. MARY
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2011**

Question

Would the Minister give a progress report on the following documents and outline the reasons for the delays in their publication –

- (i) 'Annual Report on the Environment' promised in the Strategic Plan
- (ii) 'Air Quality Strategy' promised in the Strategic Plan
- (iii) 'Annual Report on climate change and peak oil and the impact on policies of the States', which resulted from my amendment to the Strategic Plan?

Answer

The Deputy will recall that the department pledged to combine item iii (Climate Change and Peak oil) with item i (Annual Report on the Environment). We are pleased to report that this has been published and is available on the Greffe website (R126/11). The Department regrets that this has taken longer than we would have liked and that we had indicated previously.

The reason for the delay is resource pressure within the Department and thus the decision to prioritise operational issues. For example the Department over the past few months has had a significant workload in relation to scrutiny reviews, the emerging fisheries management issues with Guernsey, a restructuring of the fisheries team following voluntary redundancies, and overseas work in relation to the rural economy.

Item ii – The Air Quality Strategy (or Air Quality Action plan) is in an advanced state of development and only requires a final consultation phase before it can be implemented. Some delays have occurred for good reason. These include very positive discussions with the Health Minister around cross departmental transfer of functions and resource constraints around key officers with the Environment team.