

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY DEPUTY
S.S.P.A. POWER OF ST. BRELADE**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 3rd JUNE 2008

Question

Can the Minister confirm whether an agreement is in existence in the latest calendar year to pay an amount in the region of £400,000 to any airline to operate any one particular service to a major London Airport ?

Answer

The Economic Development Department operates a policy to develop new routes to and from Jersey. A sophisticated and sustainable network is absolutely vital to the Island's economy and Economic Development and Jersey Airport work closely together to ensure the development of the network.

This policy is proving to be highly successful and has contributed to the increase in arrivals over the past 18 months. Air arrivals in 2007 were a solid 4.3% greater than in 2006, the first significant growth for many years. Air arrivals to 31st April were 8.5% up on the same four month period in 2007.

Any airline wishing to start a new route may apply to the Department for support to help launch that route and these applications are subject to a rigorous net economic benefit analysis.

Any resultant financial element of the applications incentives that the Department and the Airport provide are of course commercial in confidence but can be examined by Scrutiny or the PAC to evaluate whether they provide Value for Money.