

STATES OF JERSEY



OPEN BORDERS ARRANGEMENTS (P.89/2020): COMMENTS

Presented to the States on 9th July 2020
by the Minister for Infrastructure

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

Ministerial response from the Minister for Infrastructure

Deputy J.H. Young of St. Brelade proposes ([P.89/2020](#), item 2) that the Minister for Infrastructure should arrange with LibertyBus, and other private operators, to make available “appropriate transport arrangements for persons requiring to self-isolate, when arriving at the airport or harbour, to limit infection risks”. He does not go on to specify what would constitute appropriate transport arrangements.

During the period in which Government emergency regulations have been effective, the public transport network has operated in a rationalised form, to ensure that transport has continued to be available for those reliant on the service and the essential journeys they need to make. Latterly a policy, endorsed by the public health authorities, of limiting bus occupancy to 50% of seated capacity has been in force, accompanied by the strong recommendation for face coverings to be worn by passengers while on board. In line with travel advice information presented on the Government website, LibertyBus have consistently highlighted this message to its customers.

It is therefore evident that the bus service already acts as an appropriate facility for onward journeys as implied within the proposition, and it remains open to the travelling public to use if they are not able to undertake their journey by other means. This is supported by the continued availability of taxicabs at the Jersey Airport and ferry terminal ranks. Incoming passengers, already familiar with the requirement to wear face coverings on boats and aircraft, will have no difficulty in continuing to do so while using public transport to complete their journeys.

While the passenger capacity offered by the bus service is currently adequate for the level of demand on offer, this is under constant review in line with changes to restrictions and LibertyBus are monitoring the situation closely in preparedness for the deployment of additional resources when a point is reached where these are required.

Accordingly, the Deputy’s request within item 2 is unnecessary and should not be supported.

Financial and resource implications

Not possible to determine on the information provided.