

3.3 Deputy F.J. Hill of St. Martin:

Would the Chairman advise whether Criminal Record Office checks were being carried out in respect of candidates for all posts including Connétables, Procureur du Bien Publique and other honorary police positions? If not, explain the reasons why and what steps, if any, will be taken by the Comité to review the current procedures.

Connétable K.P. Vibert of St. Ouen (Chairman of the Comité des Connétables):

I welcome the opportunity, not only to reply to the Deputy but to inform the public that the current procedures will continue. Namely, that a criminal record check will be carried out on all persons standing for election to the Honorary Police - including Connétable and Procureur du Bien Publique - and that the results of such checks will be forwarded to the Attorney General's office as has been the case since the Holland Inquiry.

3.3.1 The Deputy of St. Martin:

Could I just have confirmation that these checks will be carried out prior to the elections and not after? Thank you.

The Connétable of St. Ouen:

It is not carried out prior to the election. It is carried out prior to the swearing-in. But the Connétables are in consultation with the Attorney General to allow a sufficient amount of time to be made available so that checks could be made prior to the actual nomination meeting.

3.3.2 Deputy R.G. Le Herissier:

On a point of information, I wonder if the Connétables could tell us whether people do indeed make a statement which is subsequently checked as part of that CRO check. A statement affirming whether or not they have convictions.

The Connétable of St. Ouen:

What the Connétables has suggested to the Attorney General is that, at the time of nomination, all candidates for nomination to the post should make a declaration as States Members do at the moment, and that at that time the President of the Assembly - the Connétables or someone else - would be able to inform the Assembly of any offences which have been declared.

3.3.3 The Deputy of St. Martin:

Could I ask the Chairman if he would confirm whether the suggestions made now or being spoken about this morning are in line with the Centeniers Association's report which they made, I think, 2 years ago following an inquiry into the recruitment of an officer who did have a criminal record?

The Connétable of St. Ouen:

At the moment, Sir, the Comité des Connétables are awaiting the drawing-up of a list of offences from the Attorney General, and once that has been drawn-up we will proceed with all speed.