

**3.17 Deputy K.C. Lewis of the Minister for Home Affairs regarding requirements arising from Jersey's membership of the Common Travel Area and whether they included an obligation for airlines to ask for passports for booking and travel within the Area: [1(229)]**

Given that many airlines ask for passports for booking and travel between the Channel Islands and the United Kingdom and Ireland, will the Minister advise whether producing a passport is a requirement arising from Jersey's membership of the Common Travel Area and, if it is not, will she undertake to remind air operators of what any such requirements are?

**The Deputy of St. Peter (The Minister for Home Affairs):**

We have delegated responsibility; the Constable of St. Lawrence will answer this question.

**Connétable D.W. Mezbourian of St. Lawrence (Assistant Minister for Home Affairs - rapporteur):**

I understand from the Deputy that he is happy for me to answer this question and I am grateful to him for it and allowing me the opportunity to provide clarification for all Members. The Deputy asked whether producing a passport for booking and travel between the Channel Islands and the U.K. is a requirement arising from Jersey's membership with the Common Travel Area, and I can confirm that it is not a requirement. However, as we know, most airlines using the e-ticket travel system do require a form of photographic identification to be presented when customers check in for domestic flights and, of course, that is to ensure that the customer named in the booking is the same person who is travelling. The same position applies to ferry companies operating within the C.T.A. (Common Travel Area). The form of identification required is decided upon by the operator and it is not for government to instruct carriers as to what form of identification they should require for people travelling on their services. The Minister for Home Affairs cannot undertake to remind air operators of what the requirements are because those requirements are set by the operators themselves.

**3.17.1 Deputy K.C. Lewis:**

I thank the Assistant Minister for her reply. The problem arising is more and more air operators are now demanding passports for travel. Either we are part of the European Union Schengen Agreement, which we are not - the open borders - or we are part of the Common Travel Area. If we are losing the Common Travel Area, as it appears at the moment because more and more air operators are demanding passports, not just a photo I.D. (identification), then in the future any Islander without a valid passport will be prohibited from leaving the Island, which is an unacceptable situation. Does the Assistant Minister not agree?

**The Connétable of St. Lawrence:**

There are no formal immigration controls within the C.T.A., so by being a member of the C.T.A. we are not required to produce a passport when we travel within the Common Travel Area. The Common Travel Area consists of Jersey, Guernsey, the Isle of Man, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. I do appreciate what the Deputy is saying about the problem for those of us who travel who do not have a passport but who want to travel internally within the C.T.A. However, the requirement to show a passport is that of the carrier. As far as I am aware the Customs and Immigration Service have not had any queries or complaints about this. Therefore, the matter remains that the policy on what form of identification should be shown does fall to the carrier themselves.

**3.17.2 Deputy K.C. Lewis:**

I thank the Assistant Minister for her reply, which is not helpful to people who are having problems at the moment. As I say, I am all for security; we are living in very odd times at the

moment. I am all for security but surely they must be reminded that a passport is not required. We are part of the Common Travel Area. If one wishes to go to the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, England and Wales, Scotland or indeed Guernsey, just a driving licence should be sufficient. Does the Minister not agree?

**The Connétable of St. Lawrence:**

Do I agree that a driving licence should be sufficient? I think that if the carrier requires photographic identification, then a driving licence from Jersey or the other Channel Islands should be sufficient. However, the matter is a decision made by the carriers, as I have said. Our membership with the C.T.A. requires passports to be shown only at the external borders of the C.T.A.

**The Bailiff:**

We come to the final question. There is time for one question and one answer only. Deputy Doublet.