

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE  
COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 20th JANUARY 2004, BY SENATOR E.P. VIBERT**

**Question**

- (a) Would the President inform members of the revenue increase the Committee is expecting by raising rents to sporting clubs, classes and users of Fort Regent by as much as 50 per cent in some cases?
- (b) Would the President explain the reasons for the level of these increases and whether the Committee considered the effect that such increases might have on encouraging clubs and organisations to provide leisure and fitness opportunities for the public? and,
- (c) Is the President willing to reconsider the decision to raise rents in this way?

**Answer**

- (a) The Education, Sport and Culture Committee has increased charges in 2004 by an average of 6% in line with its submission made in the Fundamental Spending Review for 2004 which was agreed by the Assembly in the 2004 budget. It is estimated that this will generate an extra £69,000 at Fort Regent during 2004 from all charges levied. There are three rooms which have had an increase of 50% in rental. The extra income which will be generated from these rooms is estimated to be approximately £6,000 per annum.
- (b) The activity rooms which have been subject to a 50% increase will now be charged at £15 per hour rather than £10 per hour. These rooms are hired by various clubs and associations and the reason for the increase is to bring them more into line with rental rates for similar rooms, both within Fort Regent, and also with other facilities administered by Education Sport and Culture. The Committee did not consider that increase in charges per room would discourage their use. The Education, Sport and Culture Committee continues to support and encourage clubs and associations to provide activities for members of the public and I would wish to place on record my gratitude for the large number of clubs and associations which do this so well in the Island and in so doing provide numerous opportunities for participation and development.
- (c) The Committee has no intention to review the decision to raise the rents but if there is any evidence of undue hardship by any club I would ask them to contact the officers at the Department for Education, Sport and Culture.