

**2.10 Deputy R.C. Duhamel of the Minister for Treasury and Resources regarding advertising for further expressions of interest in the development of the Jersey College for Girls site:**

Has the Minister advertised for further expressions of interest in the development of Jersey College for Girls' site and if so on what date? If the Minister has not yet advertised will he inform the Assembly of the date he intends to do so and the reasons for delay?

**Senator T.A. Le Sueur (The Minister for Treasury and Resources):**

I am happy to update Members on this subject. Four reputable companies with appropriate international commercial property marketing experience, 2 local ones, were invited to put forward a proposal for the marketing and sale by tender of the former Jersey College for Girls' premises. From those I selected the local firm of C.B. Richard Ellis to proceed with the preparation of advertising material for both local and U.K. circulation. I am anxious to resolve this matter as soon as possible and that company is also ready to proceed and is currently awaiting my instructions to go ahead with advertising and marketing and tendering. The reason for my holding back is I have been put on notice of a potential claim by Grange Developments Limited and Axis Mason Limited for a substantial sum of damages based on alleged infringement of copyrights in the development plans and alleged misuse of confidential financial information relating to the proposed development. If such an action is brought and if it is successful the damages and legal costs will almost inevitably wipe out any profit from the development of the site and might even leave the States out of pocket. In the circumstances it would be highly imprudent to proceed with the invitation to tender until I can be confident the issue of the potential claim has been resolved. Sir, I do not wish to say anything further at this stage as to do so might prejudice the position of the States in respect of that potential claim.