

**3.7 The Deputy of St. Martin of the Minister for Home Affairs regarding positive identification of the fragment found at Haut de la Garenne in 2008 as a piece of coconut shell:**

I must say, I find this is rather in bad taste before I start my question. Would the Minister advise whether the fragment found at Haut de la Garenne in 2008 has been positively identified at Kew Gardens; whether it is a piece of coconut shell, and if it is not, will he inform Members what it is and confirm that it is still in police possession?

**Senator B.I. Le Marquand (The Minister for Home Affairs):**

The fragment referred to has been positively identified by 2 experts at Kew Gardens as being from a coconut endocarp. This diagram is not in the least in bad taste. This is a diagram to show Members what an endocarp is and it does that in 2 ways. Firstly, the top diagram shows that the outside skin of a coconut has 3 different levels. This is the inner level of the 3 and the bottom picture demonstrates - the bottom half of it - what an endocarp looks like, so this is purely information for Members. If I said "endocarp", people would have said: "What is an endocarp?" and I would not have been able to explain. There it is; both diagrammatically at the top and a picture of what a coconut endocarp looks like at the bottom. My information is that that identification was on 12th May 2009.

**3.7.1 The Deputy of St. Martin:**

I did ask whether it was still in possession. Can the Minister inform Members whether the alleged fragment, or whatever it is, is still in police possession?

**Senator B.I. Le Marquand:**

It is indeed still in police possession, yes.

**3.7.2 The Deputy of St. Martin:**

Obviously the Minister might not want to make the names of the people - the anthropologists at Kew Gardens - available to Members on the floor but could I ask the Minister whether he could make those names available to me at some other time? I think it is very important that we know when this fragment was identified as a piece of coconut.

[10:30]

**Senator B.I. Le Marquand:**

It is not customary to provide the names of experts in relation to such matters and I do not propose to depart from the normal practice.