

21.07.19

15 Deputy L.B.E. Ash of St. Clement of the Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture regarding the use of the Jersey Reds facilities: (OQ.159/2021)

Will the Minister explain why Jersey Reds' facilities were not permitted to be used as a fan zone for the Euro 2021 final?

Senator L.J. Farnham (The Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture):

Sideways pass to Deputy Raymond to answer this one, please.

Deputy H.C. Raymond of Trinity (Assistant Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture - rapporteur):

As some of you may well know, the public entertainment in Jersey is permitted by the Bailiff and the common law powers. This means if you want to hold a public event you must apply to the Bailiff's Entertainment Panel to do so. Venues such as Jersey Reds' ground that offer regular entertainment apply for an annual entertainment permit, which is P.49, which enables them to host events. But I would further add that I had been in discussions with the Bailiff's panel that week and because of previous experiences of using screens for the big events, it was felt that a town centre site was more appropriate. I left it with the Bailiff's panel to discuss further with those organising the event in St. Helier or trying to organise the event in St. Helier. However, following discussions concerning COVID implications and policing, the decision was made that the event would not go ahead in St. Helier, and this decision was not made until late on that Friday of that week. To arrange another site elsewhere was not a viable proposition, plus the fact that the screen, as you will all know, at the rugby club can only be used on certain occasions. For us to have used it on this occasion would have meant applying for planning permission for a change in use. While I appreciate that some would have been upset on not seeing the game on the big screen, I feel the decision made by all was the right decision, especially concerning the implications of COVID and the welfare of those attending. Can I finally say that no representation or submission was made to the Minister or the department from Jersey Reds regarding the use of their facilities to host a fan zone of the Euro 2021 final?

4.15.1 Deputy L.B.E. Ash:

I thank the Minister for his answer. Bearing in mind that the Stade Santander has an existing screen, it has toilet facilities, it has catering facilities, it also has a stadium that could charge a nominal fee of, say, £5 to get in and that could be monitored and given to charities, would he support in future the Stade Santander being looked at as a venue for such occasions?

The Deputy of Trinity:

Yes, I would concur with that. I would certainly look at it. But we must know well in advance and I think, unfortunately, with the COVID situation, the welfare of people in this particular case, the timing was a bit late and, unfortunately, we could not use the stadium. But in future events that require a bigger arena, then we would certainly look at the Stade Santander at St. Peter.