

STATES OF JERSEY

YOUTH ASSEMBLY OFFICIAL REPORT

TUESDAY, 21st MARCH 2017

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER	6
1. Welcome to Members of the Youth Assembly	6
1.1 The Bailiff:.....	6
QUESTIONS	6
2. Oral Questions	6
2.1 Miss Enget of Jersey College for Girls of the Assistant Minister for Education regarding	6
Deputy A.E. Pryke of Trinity (Assistant Minister for Education):	6
2.1.1 Miss Enget:	7
2.1.2 Mr. Mash:.....	7
2.2 Miss McGowan of Hautlieu of the Minister for Housing regarding	8
The Deputy of Trinity (The Minister for Housing):.....	8
2.2.1 Miss Green:	8
2.2.2 Mr. De La Cour:.....	8
2.2.3 Miss Pallent:.....	9
2.2.4 Miss Lawson:	9
2.3 Miss Mackereth of Jersey College of the Minister for Infrastructure regarding	9
Deputy E.J. Noel of St. Lawrence (The Minister for Infrastructure):	9
2.3.1 Miss Mackereth:.....	10
2.3.2 Mr. Le Blancq:	10
2.3.3 Mr. Le Blancq:	10
2.3.4 Mr. De Louche:.....	10
2.3.5 Mr. Le Blancq:	10
2.4 Mr. Hayden of the Assistant Minister for Treasury and Resources regarding	11
Connétable J.M. Refault of St. Peter (Assistant Minister for Treasury and Resources):	11
2.4.1 Mr. Hayden:	11
2.4.2 Miss Pallent:.....	11
2.4.3 Mr. De La Cour:.....	11
2.4.4 Miss Green:	12
2.4.5 Mr. Kotedia:.....	12
2.4.6 Mr. Kotedia:	12
2.5 Miss Lawson of Beaulieu of the Minister for Social Security regarding	12
Deputy S.J. Pinel of St. Clement (The Minister for Social Security):	12
2.5.1 Miss Lawson:	13
2.5.2 Mr. Morby:.....	13
2.5.3 Mr. Mash:.....	13

2.5.4 Miss Green:	13
2.5.5 Mr. Davies:	14
2.5.6 Miss McEnergy:	14
2.5.7 Mr. Le Blancq:	14
2.6 Mr. Mariscal of De La Salle of the Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture regarding	15
Senator L.J. Farnham (The Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture):	15
2.6.1 Mr. Mariscal:	15
2.6.2 Mr. De Louche:	15
2.6.3 Mr. Kotedia:	15
2.6.4 Mr. Emmanuel:	16
2.6.5 Mr. Le Blancq:	16
2.6.6 Mr. Ventura:	16
2.6.7 Miss McCarthy:	17
2.6.8 Mr. Davis:	17
2.6.9 Mr. Mariscal:	17
2.7 Miss Dickinson of Beaulieu of the Minister for Infrastructure regarding	18
Deputy E.J. Noel (The Minister for Infrastructure):	18
2.7.1 Mr. Le Blancq:	18
2.7.2 Mr. Davies:	19
2.7.3 Miss Garton:	19
2.7.4 Miss Mackereth:	19
2.7.5 Miss McCarthy:	19
2.7.6 Miss Coxshall:	19
2.7.7 Miss Green:	20
2.7.8 Mr. Barette:	20
2.7.9 Mr. O. Davies:	20
2.7.10 Miss Fearn:	20
2.7.11 Miss Jones:	21
2.7.12 Mr. Emmanuel:	21
2.7.13 Miss Pallent:	21
2.7.14 Mr. Le Blancq:	21
2.7.15 Miss Green:	22
2.7.16 Miss E. Dickinson:	22
2.8 Mr. Ventura of Hautlieu of the Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services regarding	22
The Connétable of St. Peter (Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services):	22
2.8.1 Mr. Kotedia:	23
2.8.2 Miss Jones:	23
2.8.3 Mr. Mariscal:	24
2.8.4 Miss Garton:	24
2.8.5 Mr. Corbel:	24
2.8.6 Mr. Le Blancq:	25
2.8.7 Miss Pallent:	25
2.8.8 Mr. De Louche:	25
2.8.9 Mr. Davis:	25
2.8.10 Miss Box:	26
2.8.11 Mr. Ventura:	26
2.9 Mr. Morby of Victoria College of the Minister for External Relations regarding	27
Senator P.M. Bailhache (The Minister for External Relations):	27
2.9.1 Mr. Morby:	27

2.9.2 Mr. Pallent:	27
2.9.3 Mr. Mariscal:.....	27
2.9.4 Mr. Mash:.....	28
2.9.5 Mr. Le Blancq:.....	28
2.9.6 Mr. Bridge:.....	28
2.9.7 Mr. Emmanuel:	29
2.9.8 Mr. Mash:.....	29
2.9.9 Mr. Morby:.....	29
2.10 Mr. Emmanuel of De La Salle of the Minister for Environment regarding	29
Deputy E.J. Noel (The Minister for Infrastructure - rapporteur):	30
2.10.1 Mr. Le Blancq:	30
2.10.2 Miss Hart:.....	30
2.10.3 Mr. Power:.....	31
2.10.4 Miss Coxshall:.....	31
2.10.5 Miss Lawson:	31
2.10.6 Mr. Mariscal:.....	31
2.10.7 Mr. Bridge:	31
2.10.8 Mr. Davies:.....	32
2.10.9 Mr. Emmanuel:.....	32
3. Questions to Ministers Without Notice - The Chief Minister.....	32
3.1 Mr. Le Blancq:	32
Senator I.J. Gorst (The Chief Minister):.....	32
3.2 Miss Garton:.....	33
3.3 Mr. Morby:.....	33
3.4 Mr. Fitzgerald:	34
3.5 Mr. Wankling:.....	34
3.6 Miss Radcliffe:.....	35
3.7 Mr. Nash:	35
3.8 Mr. Bridge:	35
3.9 Miss Green:.....	36
PUBLIC BUSINESS:	36
4. That all schools should be mixed gender	36
4.1 Mr. O'Neill:	36
4.1.1 Mr. Fitzgerald:	38
4.1.2 Miss Fearn:.....	38
4.1.3 Mr. Davis:	39
4.1.4 Miss Coxshall:	39
4.1.5 Mr. Le Blancq:	39
4.1.6 Miss Jones:.....	39
4.1.7 Mr. De La Cour:.....	39
4.1.8 Miss Pallent:.....	40
4.1.9 Mr. De Louche:	40
4.1.10 Miss Enget:.....	40
4.1.11 Mr. Davis:.....	41
4.1.12 Miss Lawson:	41
4.1.13 Mr. O'Neill:.....	41
5. That Jersey must accommodate and settle at least 400 Syrian refugees	43
5.1 Miss Box:	43
5.1.1 Mr. Morby:.....	44

5.1.2 Mr. Flynn:	45
5.1.3 Mr. De La Cour:.....	45
5.1.4 Miss Green:.....	45
5.1.5 Miss Radcliffe:.....	45
5.1.6 Miss De La Cour:.....	45
5.1.7 Mr. O'Neill:	46
5.1.8 Mr. Ventura:.....	46
5.1.9 Miss Fearn:.....	46
5.1.10 Miss Pallent:.....	46
5.1.11 Miss Box:	47
6. That Jersey should develop a fair and equitable taxation system for all Jersey residents	48
6.1 Miss Hart:.....	48
6.1.1 Miss Fearn:.....	49
6.1.2 Miss Mackereth:.....	50
6.1.3 Miss Green:.....	50
6.1.4 Mr. O. Davies:.....	50
6.1.5 Mr. Bridge:.....	50
6.1.6 Mr. Mash:.....	51
6.1.7 Mr. Le Blancq:	51
6.1.8 Miss Hart:.....	51
7. That the States should be streamlined	53
7.1 Mr. De La Cour:.....	53
7.1.1 Mr. Mash:.....	54
7.1.2 Mr. O'Neill:	54
7.1.3 Mr. Le Blancq:	54
7.1.4 Mr. Flynn:	54
7.1.5 Miss Fearn:.....	55
7.1.6 Miss Pallent:.....	55
7.1.7 Mr. Morby:.....	56
7.1.8 Mr. De La Cour:.....	56
8. That all Jersey residents must retake all components of their driving test every 20 years, with the exception of those who are required to take advanced driving tests for their jobs.....	57
8.1 Miss Green:	58
8.1.1 Mr. Fitzgerald:	59
8.1.2 Mr. Mariscal:.....	59
8.1.3 Miss Enget:	59
8.1.4 Mr. Corbel:	59
8.1.5 Mr. O'Neill:	59
8.1.6 Miss Box:	60
8.1.7 Mr. Emmanuel:	60
8.1.8 Mr. Morby:.....	60
8.1.9 Mr. Le Blancq:	60
8.1.10 Miss McEnergy:	60
8.1.11 Mr. Ventura:	60
8.1.12 Mr. Bridge:	61
8.1.13 Miss Lawson:	61
8.1.14 Mr. Davis:.....	61
8.1.15 Miss Garton:	61

8.1.16	Mr. Wankling:	61
8.1.17	Mr. O. Davies:	61
8.1.18	Miss Pallen:	61
8.1.19	Mr. Barette:	62
8.1.20	Miss Dickenson:	62
8.1.21	Miss Coxshall:	62
8.1.22	Miss Green:	63
ADJOURNMENT		65

[13:28]

The Roll was called and the Dean led the Assembly in Prayer.

[13:30]

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER

1. Welcome to Members of the Youth Assembly

1.1 The Bailiff:

If Members will have their Order Papers in front of them, you will see that the first is under A, Communications from the President, and I would just like to welcome you all very warmly to this 20th Youth Assembly. Before the change in the Law in 1999, the age of majority in Jersey was the age of 20 and so the Assembly, under the old law, would have come of age today. But there are 2 things that arise from that change of the law, which are just worth mentioning. The first is that this Chamber, in which you are sitting now as the legislature, is about holding Ministers to account, which you are about to do, and also about making laws. It is an important Chamber. It is going to be celebrating its 130th birthday later this year and it is a special thing for the Youth Assembly, not only to be here, but also to be thinking in terms of law and the structure on which our community is based. The second thing, which arises from that, is that States Members do things which affect all of us, they make laws, they hold Ministers to account, all of us are affected by what the elected Members of the States do in here. It is everybody's duty to be interested in what is done and it is everybody's duty to vote and so I just thought I would make that point. I am delighted you are here because that shows you are interested and no doubt that you will be voters as well next year. The other thing I just wanted to say is thank you to BBC Radio Jersey for broadcasting today as usual, but to add for all your benefits that unusually, for the first time, you, or most of you at any rate, you are about to become film stars because we are web-streaming the event and you will be able to see yourselves on the States Assembly website later on. That is all under A.

QUESTIONS

The Bailiff:

We now come to question time and the first question is from Marianne Enget of Jersey College for Girls who is going to ask a question of Deputy Pryke, the Assistant Minister for Education, regarding student loans. Miss Enget.

2. Oral Questions

2.1 Miss Enget of Jersey College for Girls of the Assistant Minister for Education regarding

...

Why do we not have a university loan scheme?

Deputy A.E. Pryke of Trinity (Assistant Minister for Education):

First of all I would like to give the Minister's apologies and also thank you for the question, which is very important and will probably affect, I hope, most of you as you go on into higher education. The Minister and the Education Department are aware of the financial pressures on families who have a child going to university and have been exploring options that could help with the high fees that U.K. (United Kingdom) universities have charged since 2012. A partial loan scheme for Jersey residents already exists, it provides £1,500 a year for 3 years and it is run by a commercial bank. Repayments have to start a year after the university course ends and the loan must be fully repaid within 5 years. A great deal of work has been done in exploring 3 student loan options to help students: (1) increase the existing loan; (2) join the U.K. student loan scheme; and (3) create a new Jersey student loan. But unfortunately there are significant difficulties in each. With increasing the existing loan, the current operator and other commercial banks have been asked to extend this loan so that more money is available to students. Unfortunately, the scheme is not financially viable or attractive for commercial banks and they have declined. Joining the U.K. student loan scheme, despite repeated

requests and meetings, the U.K. student loan company has said they cannot accept Jersey students. I will go on to the third one, to create a new student loan. It is not possible for Jersey's Government to set up an equivalent student loan scheme that covers the full amount of tuition fees. The Minister for Education and his department will continue to work with the Minister for Treasury and Resources and his team to try to find a solution that will help most Jersey families afford a university education.

2.1.1 Miss Enget:

Jersey is considered to be renowned for its successful finance industry, which placed Jersey's economy ahead of its European counterparts as shown by statistics in 2014, thus it begs the question as to why the Island is apparently unable to afford a better student loan scheme. I agree it would be an unreasonable request to suggest that the States should fund every Jersey student's university fees, but I think a very fair and necessary compromise would be for the current loan to increase. Since it cost the States an estimated £21 million to build the new police station, the taxpayers' money could arguably be put to better use with regards to benefiting Islanders. It therefore leads me to question why the States themselves have not proposed that they increase the amount offered by the current student loan scheme.

The Bailiff:

Taking those factors into account, Minister, why are you not introducing a student loan scheme?

The Deputy of Trinity:

As I have said about the student loan scheme, it is one possibility, but there is no easy option. I think if there was an easy option the Minister would have come up with it; I wish there was. Existing student loan scheme; that is one possibility. The amount that the department puts into student loans at present is in the region of £10 million and I know within the next year another £2 million has been added into that. That was allocated within the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

The Bailiff:

Any other questions for the Minister on this subject? Yes, Mr. Mash.

2.1.2 Mr. Mash:

It says here that the full cost of sending all our students to university is going to be £30 million. How did you come to this figure?

The Deputy of Trinity:

I did not quite catch all the question. The Member was saying that it would cost about £300 million a year for 3 years?

Mr. Mash

It says here that the full cost of sending all our students to university has been estimated to be at least £30 million a year. How did you come to this figure?

The Deputy of Trinity:

The figure was arised that there is roughly 400 students that might go away to university, so when you work it over 3 years that is 1,500 students over 3 years and if each degree, 3-year degree, costs approximately £60,000, it works out to about roughly £30 million, and that is how the amount was done. But we understand that we are short and the Minister is empathetic to the issues of student loans and how important it is to students who want to go to university.

The Bailiff:

Any other supplementary questions? Final supplementary question, Miss Enget?

Miss M. Enget:

Thank you for your response. You have explained to us why you are unable to inform the student loan increase.

The Bailiff:

Thank you. Can I say to the media what a pleasure it is to have you present to be filming us and would you now like to withdraw. Thank you very much indeed.

2.2 Miss McGowan of Hautlieu of the Minister for Housing regarding ...

What plans, if any, does the Minister have to support young people getting on to the housing ladder?

The Deputy of Trinity (The Minister for Housing):

It is a shorter answer. Jersey is a prosperous Island and a great place to live, but this means that affording to buy a home can be a challenge for an awful lot of young people. To address this challenge, we are building new affordable homes to meet demand for young people who want to buy their own home. By 2020 we anticipate selling 300 affordable homes to first-time buyers, which will be sold at a discounted price to the open market. A new scheme for first-time buyers is also being built at College Gardens at Le Pouquelaye, the site of the former Jersey College for Girls. This will provide 40 one-bedroom homes for purchase at a 20 per cent discount to the open market and this will be completed by 2018. One of the other challenges that young people face is the cost of raising a deposit to put down when buying a property. While they may be able to afford to pay the mortgage, they cannot raise the necessary upfront deposit because of living costs such as their rents. So I am actively working to introduce a scheme that will loan people the money necessary to put down a deposit when they come to purchase a property.

Miss McGowan:

We do not have any further questions. Thank you.

The Bailiff:

Any Members who have any questions for the Minister on this subject? Yes, Miss Green.

2.2.1 Miss Green:

Without lower overall mortgage costs in the Island, those who have studied abroad will not want to return to the Island and people will not be encouraged to come. This will create a depopulation effect. What is the States doing to reduce mortgage costs to prevent this from occurring?

The Deputy of Trinity:

I have mentioned quite a few in my comments but I know the cost of buying is in some places unaffordable. We hope, within the next 2 or 3 years, to build 1,000 social housing properties of which 400 will be affordable. That is one very positive thing. But with students returning, we very much welcome them and I think the deposit loan scheme, which I hoped would have been in place by the end of last year, hopefully will be in place next year. It will be a one-off but we hope to repeat it, if it is successful, 2 or 3 years later down the line. There is not one kind of route that will help everyone, we have to be flexible and we need to build more.

2.2.2 Mr. De La Cour:

Could you explain the nature of this deposit scheme please?

The Deputy of Trinity:

Yes, the first deposit scheme was run like a pilot scheme 2 years ago by a commercial bank, it is when the States of Jersey put 15 per cent of the deposit and the owners had to find the extra 5 per cent and this is having to be paid back over a number of years and the pilot scheme was interest-free. So it did work and about 54 families benefited from it, so it is very much to help those who will afford the mortgage but cannot find the deposit.

The Bailiff:

Any further questions for the Minister on this subject? Yes, Miss Pallent.

2.2.3 Miss Pallent:

You talked about how there was a scheme and how it was meant to be implemented by the end of last year. Why was it not? Surely it should be a priority for Housing.

The Deputy of Trinity:

Indeed it is one my priorities but I have to find a bank to administer it and come up with the money and a way of funding it and doing the admin side of it and in this current climate there are very few banks who will take that risk on, which is a shame. But there is one in particular and I am working very hard with that bank to say how important it is for all people here in Jersey who cannot get on that ladder and need that deposit. So it is a very good question you asked.

[13:45]

2.2.4 Miss Lawson:

You said you were making loads of new affordable housing in Jersey, but how will ensure that these houses are going to people who need them the most in society?

The Deputy of Trinity:

Those who need it the most, there is social rental housing, which is for people on low income and, as I said, it is rental. Those who wish to buy their homes have to go through the Gateway where it is banded in different bands and your income has to be below a certain level and that can change as Jersey's economy changes, so it is all the requests go through the Gateway where it is banded and checked (a) that you fit one of the right bands to make the house affordable, but also that you can afford to pay back the mortgages and whatever.

The Bailiff:

Miss Lawson, you have fallen into the ministerial trap of talking about what she wants to talk about and not what the question is about, which was about housing for young people and not affordable housing.

2.3 Miss Mackereth of Jersey College of the Minister for Infrastructure regarding ...

What efforts, if any, is the Minister taking to improve parking in St. Helier?

Deputy E.J. Noel of St. Lawrence (The Minister for Infrastructure):

Since becoming the Minister for Infrastructure, we have made a number of improvements to parking in St. Helier, including an additional deck of parking at Green Street car park, refurbishment of Pier Road and Sand Street car parks to improve customer experience and to elongate the life of the car parks, with Minden Place in the progress to refurbish in the next few months and Green Street and Patriot Street to follow. We have increased the amount of shopper parking in St. Helier, in particular 194 additional spaces on the Esplanade car park and a further 59 additional shopper spaces at Pier Road. We have increased the number of parent and child spaces at Sand Street car park. We have introduced an automated counting system and the provision of information for the public on parking availability through the Love Jersey app and through the local radio stations. We are also developing a smart phone payment system, which will be introduced later this year making it easier to pay for parking both on street and off street and of course we have removed the dedicated parking for States Members from Snow Hill, Pier Road and Sand Street car parks and in doing so, in the case of Sand Street, we increased the space available for disabled parking. The provision of public parking in St. Helier is a balancing act, it is important to provide it at an appropriate level, too little and too expensive would be damaging to our town's economy, too much and too cheap would be damaging

to the States' Sustainable Transport Policy, which aims to reduce the impact of private car use in terms of congestion and on the environment.

2.3.1 Miss Mackereth:

I understand the balancing act; however some parking in St. Helier is so expensive it is not worthwhile to have a part-time job. How can this be the case?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

I actually have the opposite view to that of the Member, the public car-parking in Jersey, when benchmarked against other jurisdictions, performs very well and in fact it is very inexpensive compared to most towns and cities in the U.K.

2.3.2 Mr. Le Blancq:

What data do you have to support those claims that the parking is affordable?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

We have benchmarked against public data that is available from the U.K. against our own and those were published, I believe, at the time of the Sustainable Transport Policy back in 2010.

2.3.3 Mr. Le Blancq:

Is using U.K. data from 2010 really the best data to be using to decide whether parking is affordable in Jersey or not?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

It gives us a benchmark and we do update that and do monitor it. The parking charges in Jersey are restricted how much we can increase them year on year, they are the higher of either 2.5 per cent increase of the cost of inflation, so we do bear that in mind when setting the car park charges, but that money that goes into car-parking is reinvested in our Sustainable Transport Policy.

2.3.4 Mr. De Louche:

You say you have a smart phone payment system for later this year, do you have a date for that at all?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

We hopefully will have that after the end of the summer; we are going through the final tendering process and the final specification and testing that. One of the things that has taken us a little bit longer than first anticipated is for the payment system to work with the Treasury's back office systems to make sure that the payment goes through the banking system in a smooth manner.

2.3.5 Mr. Le Blancq:

Will there be a trial period for your smart phone app so we know that it works fully with the systems currently in place and, if it does not, what is the backup plan?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

We are not reinventing the wheel; we are taking on a payment app system that works elsewhere. Obviously it is being tested extensively to make sure that, when it is launched to the public, all the bugs, if there are any, will have been addressed.

The Bailiff:

Miss Mackereth, a final supplementary?

Miss Mackereth:

No further questions, thank you.

2.4 Mr. Hayden of the Assistant Minister for Treasury and Resources regarding ...

Is the first phase of the Finance Centre now fully let and when will it be fully occupied?

Connétable J.M. Refault of St. Peter (Assistant Minister for Treasury and Resources):

Thank you for your question. Firstly, may I apologise on behalf of the Minister for Treasury and Resources who has to be in the U.K. today, who would have loved to answer this question himself. The answer is the International Finance Centre is not currently fully let. At present the building is 60 per cent let. But before committing to construction costs, the States of Jersey Development Company has to secure a sufficient level of legally binding pre-lets to fund the cost of constructing the first phase of the scheme, which in this case is the initial building on the International Finance Centre. This requirement was a States decision taken to minimise the risks on construction. Having met this requirement, construction on the first building commenced during which time S.o.J.D.C. (States of Jersey Development Company) continued to seek further additional tenants for the vacant space. While the building is not yet fully let, S.o.J.D.C. is in constant dialogue with other prospective tenants and on an ongoing basis. The States of Jersey Development Company are confident that demand for high-quality office space is increasing and that the first building will soon be fully occupied. S.o.J.D.C. has also commenced the second office building having secured a pre-let to occupy 50 per cent of that building as well.

2.4.1 Mr. Hayden:

With the number of citizens employed in the finance and legal sector in Jersey declining, does the Assistant Minister believe that the remaining buildings have the potential to be fully let?

The Connétable of St. Peter:

The short answer is yes, very confident. The amount of enquiries we have is almost exponential. There is a great demand for people going into what they call grade A office space, which very often allows companies to consolidate their operations into one building and reduce their overall facilities management costs. Additionally, you may well have noticed in yesterday's media, the announcement of a very high multi-billion-pound fund that is coming to Jersey. That will produce further opportunities for Jersey people to be employed in the Finance Centre and will need a home to do that in.

2.4.2 Miss Pallent:

I am just wondering, because in here you say that the current building is only 60 per cent let, yet you have sold pre-let for a second building. Why did you decide to pre-let the second building when the first building is not full?

The Connétable of St. Peter:

Very observant; thank you for your question, a very good question. The simple answer is the client for the second building needs more space than is currently available in the first building. Certainly we have 2 interested parties to take 90 per cent of the remaining portions of the empty space in the first building and the other big client that we are looking at, at building 5, which is the second building to be built, they want 50 per cent or more of that building, so therefore they cannot operate in the first building.

2.4.3 Mr. De La Cour:

If there is exponential interest in the Finance Centre, then why are they not full?

The Connétable of St. Peter:

It is only since Brexit that we have seen an increasing interest in people coming to look at Jersey as an opportunity and we have a product now that we can show them. Building 1 has stimulated a lot of that interest but it takes time to come here to forward-plan their move and how they are going to factor that into their cost basis, and that can take 2 or 3 years for some companies to do that. But

essentially we are seeing more and more interest. Now we have a physical building in place there and also other potential sites, now we have building 2 starting to come out now, so they can forward-plan for that construction when it is finished in around about 3 years' time.

2.4.4 Miss Green:

How can we be assured that these companies will stay in the Finance Centre for a long time? How can we be assured that their finances are not such that the company will go bust and then move out of the building in about a year's time? Are the lets binding for 10 years or 20 years or are they short term?

The Connétable of St. Peter:

Yes, thank you for your question. You almost answered it for yourself at the end. Yes, they have to sign up to a lease period, which binds them to it. Of course any company can go bust, as we said, but the sort of companies that are going in there are high-value companies, well-known high street names, well known in the finance industry. They are unlikely to but of course, as we saw with Brexit and the election of President Trump, anything is possible.

The Bailiff:

Final supplementary? Yes, before you, Mr. Kotedia.

2.4.5 Mr. Kotedia:

Would it be economically viable to have these companies only let for say 10 years?

The Connétable of St. Peter:

Short term, probably no, because they are built with a long-term view in mind that they should be in place and fully occupied for 40, 50, 60 years; that is the object of doing the Finance Centre in the first place. But certainly if somebody wanted a small area of space on one of the floors, for example, a short-term let may well suffice for particularly a start-up business that just wants to get a toe-hold into Jersey and an opportunity to do that within the grade A office building that we are providing.

2.4.6 Mr. Kotedia:

So what is to say these big businesses would only stay for only 10 years; do you have assurance that they will stay for longer and you will earn your money back?

The Connétable of St. Peter:

The current tenants that are already signed up are big businesses already signed up to much longer lease periods.

The Bailiff:

Final supplementary, Mr. Hayden?

Mr. Hayden:

Thank you to the Assistant Minister for his response.

2.5 Miss Lawson of Beaulieu of the Minister for Social Security regarding ...

Is there a substantial difference between paid and unpaid maternity leave entitlement in Jersey and other places and, if so, why?

Deputy S.J. Pinel of St. Clement (The Minister for Social Security):

I thank Miss Lawson for her question. In Jersey the statutory maternity leave entitlement was based on recommendations made by the Employment Forum. Women in Jersey are entitled up to 18 weeks of maternity leave with 18 weeks of maternity allowance paid by the Social Security Department at £204.19 per week. On health grounds, the woman must take 2 weeks of maternity leave immediately after giving birth, during which time her employer must provide full pay. Employers in the U.K.,

Isle of Man and Guernsey, are not required by law to provide any periods of maternity leave at full pay. Most other countries make some provision for maternity leave with different levels of protection being provided depending on the qualifying conditions. There are often similarities, for example the average period of maternity leave is 18 weeks and leave is often a combination of paid and unpaid periods with pay usually being funded by the state or a social insurance scheme. There can also be significant differences in maternity provisions. The weekly maternity benefits in the U.K. and the Isle of Man are available for up to 39 weeks compared to 18 weeks in Jersey and Guernsey. However, at £204 per week, Jersey's maternity allowance is far more generous per week than the equivalent rates of benefit in the U.K., Isle of Man and Guernsey. Maternity leave and benefits vary widely across the world, each country has developed its own system over many years within the context of its own employment legislation and social insurance systems. Statutory maternity leave in Jersey is currently under review and I hope to extend the rights in 2018.

2.5.1 Miss Lawson:

I agree with you, while the maternity leave pay in the U.K. is lower per week, in the U.K. it is over a longer period of time, so this means the U.K. residents will get more money than people will in Jersey when having a baby. Therefore, why have you then decided to reduce the free childcare hours to only 20 hours, which leaves Jersey families in a worse-off position financially?

[14:00]

Deputy S.J. Pinel:

A very multi-faceted question. As I said in my opening remarks, the difference in the amount of time allowed for maternity leave varies across countries and in the U.K., as I mentioned, it is 39 weeks but that is paid, you can take 52 weeks of leave but only 39 weeks is paid. The Employment Forum, as the questioner will be aware, are at the moment looking into the family-friendly rights, which will include whether there should be paternity as well as maternity leave, whether it should be extended, a whole range of questions that they are looking into. As for childcare hours, it is 20 hours a week, which is paid for, if required, by Income Support.

2.5.2 Mr. Morby:

Are you concerned that a higher level of maternity protection afforded could deter employers from employing women as employees?

Deputy S.J. Pinel:

This is a very good question; this has been addressed with the Sex Discrimination Legislation that we brought in 2015 and that is exactly to deter any misuse of that sort of situation where women cannot be discriminated against if they are of childbearing age with regards to employment.

2.5.3 Mr. Mash:

Why do we have a maternity system rather a paternity leave system?

Deputy S.J. Pinel:

Again a very pertinent question and the Employment Forum, who are directed by the Minister for Social Security, are looking at that as we speak. They have just concluded their consultation with over 300 responses, which is quite impressive, and they will now put together the responses, the letters, the comments, everything they have received, and one of the questions that they were directed to look at was the paternity leave as well as maternity leave. We should have the responses collated and a report due back at the end of this year.

2.5.4 Miss Green:

To continue on from Miss Lawson's point regarding the reduction in free childcare hours, the high cost of mortgages in Jersey mean that often women have to go back into work after having a child.

Having 20 hours a week, working 9.00 to 5.00, means that you will always be 5 hours short. That surely discourages and can add costs on to a family who may be at the lower end of the income scale.

Deputy S.J. Pinel:

Yes, and again a very observant question. The 20 hours free nursery care can be supplemented by Social Security if it means that the person is on a lower income, if they are only working part time or low income full stop, and the time to get to and from the nursery and then on to work is taken into account and financial assistance is given in that case.

The Bailiff:

Final supplementary? Do you have a light on? I cannot see. All right, Mr. Davies, do you have a question?

2.5.5 Mr. Davies:

With the high cost of living in Jersey compared to the U.K., do you feel like the maternity leave difference is substantial enough?

Deputy S.J. Pinel:

The allowance that one gets, there is a maternity grant, which is separate, that is a one-off payment, but the allowance is established on average weekly earnings and in the U.K. for the first 6 weeks that are paid for that allowance is £458 a week and in Jersey it is £700 for the first 2 weeks because we only pay the statutory payment for the first 2 weeks and afterwards it drops down. But again I am hoping that when we see the recommendations of the Employment Forum that we can move forward, but that is quite a difference, albeit only for 2 weeks for £700 to £458.

2.5.6 Miss McEnery:

You said that the employer must pay for leave the first 2 weeks. Are there any other requirements by the States of Jersey that the women must be paid after the 2 weeks or is that all that they get for the payment?

Deputy S.J. Pinel:

As regards to the employer, the employer has to pay the full amount of whatever the wage the employee has, but deducted from that is the allowance that the Social Security System give them, so if their average weekly wage is £700 then £204 will be deducted from that, so they have to pay the difference, depending on what the wage is. After that, no, it is just the Social Security allowance that will pay.

2.5.7 Mr. Le Blancq:

Is there currently any support available for women who are pregnant or have just had children who are self-employed?

Deputy S.J. Pinel:

It would depend on how they were self-employed. If they have their own business and are employed by the business, the business would then pay them. It is a very difficult question to answer because the circumstances are so different, but they would get the Social Security allowance even if they were not able to be paid by themselves, so to speak.

The Bailiff:

A final supplementary, Miss Lawson?

Miss Lawson:

No, but thank you very much for answering all of our questions.

2.6 Mr. Mariscal of De La Salle of the Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture regarding ...

What steps are being taken to secure Jersey's future economic stability by reducing our dependency on the finance sector?

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

We propose to secure future economic growth and diversity of the local economy as Jersey has done successfully throughout history, ensuring that we can create jobs, balance public finances, and continue to deliver the high-quality public services that residents quite rightly should expect. This is not simply a role that Government can discharge in isolation. Government, through its Economic Growth and Diversification Strategy, provides for the basis of partnership between Government, business and the third sector. In Jersey, for the benefit of everyone in our community, I and my Assistant Ministers are committed to delivering an increase to the investment Government makes in supporting the local economy across all sectors, including the rural economy and tourism, to make them more productive in an attempt to tackle and keep low unemployment, encourage personal development, reduce the dependence on the finance industry and secure a better future underwritten by enhanced economic growth.

Connétable L. Norman of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Do you wish to ask a supplementary question, Mr. Mariscal?

2.6.1 Mr. Mariscal:

You mention some sectors such as agriculture and tourism, but it is quite clear that tourism has been on the decline for quite a number of years now. How exactly do you suggest that you increase these figures by making Jersey a more attractive place for tourists or potential home owners?

Senator L.J. Farnham:

I think Jersey has always been an attractive place for tourists, but as the world has become a smaller place over the decades with people being able to travel internationally much more easily and cost-effectively, it has been more challenging for Jersey to attract the number of visitors as it has in the past. But, having said that, the value of our tourism economy has remained high and I am pleased to report that the number of visitors are on the increase again. I and my department have made sure that we have not reduced the budget to tourism and agriculture because I think the traditional industries are vitally important to this Island, not only maintaining its infrastructure and its way of life, but providing alternative career opportunities for those Islanders not wishing to work in the financial services sector.

2.6.2 Mr. De Louche:

With regards to tourism, are there plans to continue the national television adverts that promote the Island?

Senator L.J. Farnham:

I believe so, but I will have to consult with Visit Jersey, because the job of marketing Jersey has been handed to Visit Jersey, which is a standalone independent organisation. But what I can say is they are producing quite a lot of stunning video footage, which you can view if you visit visitjersey.com and they are putting a lot more emphasis on digital advertising, so now I think up to 80 per cent of our marketing is done online and that is thus far proving to be very successful.

2.6.3 Mr. Kotedia:

Just going back to the point you made about it becoming cheaper to travel internationally, do you think that Jersey also needs to adapt so that it is more affordable for holidaymakers?

Senator L.J. Farnham:

I think Jersey is adapting to that. Jersey caters for a broad range of visitors and you can stay in 5-star luxury or you could stay in glamping sites at Durrell, for example, all of which offer a wide range of pricing. But the important thing is that Jersey continues to offer value for money; whatever the visitor spends we must give them value. I am also pleased to say that the vast majority of visitors, over 90 per cent, are very pleased with their holiday and say they will come back and visit again.

2.6.4 Mr. Emmanuel:

How does the Minister and his department plan to implement personal development and, if not in finance, which industries?

Senator L.J. Farnham:

That is something we have been discussing with the Education Department who have responsibility for skills now, and the Skills Board. There is also some work in progress that should be announced shortly, which will raise additional monies from the various industries to ensure that the Skills Board has more funding to ensure that Islanders have the opportunity to get the relevant skills to work in industries outside of the financial services sector. I think it is part of our culture and the hospitality sector relies on immigration for the majority of its staffing and we are very keen to try to change this in the years ahead, we realise it is not going to be easy, but we want to make sure that we do provide the resources to ensure that Islanders who wish to work in other sectors have the opportunity, if they need it, to have the relevant training and skills delivered to them.

2.6.5 Mr. Le Blancq:

You spoke about having 80 per cent of your advertising online and there being videos on visitjersey.com, but what websites or where online is Jersey being advertised and particularly how is it being advertised as a holiday destination? Because I have been over to the U.K. several times in the past years and there are people who are completely unaware of the existence of Jersey or that the Channel Islands are part of the U.K.

Senator L.J. Farnham:

I have not shared that experience. I find Jersey, although people might not be too familiar with our way of life and the way we manage ourselves and our Government, I think people are aware of Jersey, but it is a big challenge. We have a limited budget. Visit Jersey receive funding of £5 million a year, which sounds a lot, but when you relate that to the job in hand of attracting visitors from Britain and Europe, it is not an awful lot of money, so they have to spread their money out as far as they possibly can. I know there is some television advertising planned, but research and anecdotal evidence has proven that online marketing works best for us. So they do the best they can with the funds they have and I am quite content with that because, as I said earlier, I am pleased to report that for the first time in a number of years the number of leisure visitors to Jersey increased in 2016, so that does show that the policy we have and the strategy Visit Jersey are delivering is working. It was a good question, thank you.

2.6.6 Mr. Ventura:

On the careers area of this question, Jersey has a lot of implications on the finance sector, but it lacks a lot on the tourism and arts sections, especially on arts, drama and tourism. How would you help people who want to further their careers on those sections in Jersey and they cannot?

Senator L.J. Farnham:

We have recently identified through visitor surveys that our arts and culture is an important unique selling point, if you like, for Jersey. We have a really broad offering of cultural activity. We are well served by Jersey Heritage and the Jersey Arts Trust and in terms of working in those industries I have to say I am not sure of the opportunities for young people, but I refer back to the answer I gave earlier insofar as we are committed to providing the right resources to ensure that skills and training are available for people to work in different sectors. I am sorry I cannot be clearer than that but there

are opportunities, of course providing you possess the talent, which I do not, to work in the arts or culture.

[14:15]

2.6.7 Miss McCarthy:

Is it your marketing aimed nationally at the U.K. or is it going to be across in other areas such as China?

Senator L.J. Farnham:

The majority of the marketing budget is aimed at the U.K. I understand Visit Jersey have increased the budget in parts of Europe, they have increased partnership spending, for example there is a large budget allocated in a joint venture with Condor Ferries. I think it is in excess of a million pounds allocated to marketing in France. Outside of that there is little aimed at the global market simply because it is so huge and I fear that the amount available would make little impact. Of course the online marketing is viewable globally. For example, Chinese tourism, which we have identified, there could be some potential as Chinese citizens are I think the biggest tourism economic spenders globally at the moment. We tend to target them by marketing to London where they tend to visit, I think the biggest destination for Chinese visitors is London, so we market to them in London rather than trying to do it in China.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I will call on Mr. Davis and then Mr. Mariscal for the final question. Mr. Davis.

2.6.8 Mr. Davis:

I would just like to ask the Minister, obviously he has mentioned we have our culture and it is getting more competitive throughout the world with tourism, I would like to ask the Minister, please, what are his plans or is there any look-forward to the future to keep that growing tourism that we saw in 2016 more sustainable in the future and, if so, within that plan, are there any changes, developments, which you would like to see in what Jersey has to offer as a tourist destination?

Senator L.J. Farnham:

I think we have an awful lot to offer at the moment, we tend not to appreciate it because it is on our doorstep and we see it all the time. I always say to young people, as I would say to all young people here today, if you get the opportunity go and live somewhere else, go and study off the Island or experience some of the world, because then you can appreciate what we have here in Jersey and our culture and heritage is no exception. The aim of my department and Visit Jersey is to grow visitor numbers and improve productivity. Improving productivity I mean is doing more for less resource and that is essentially making sure we attract more visitors outside of the peak times of year, which is proving successful because people now tend to travel more than once a year, people will go away 3 or 4 times a years for 3 or 4 days as opposed to one 2-week holiday a year and we are making sure we are tapping into that market. As I said before, I am pleased to say that the vast majority of visitors who come here are particularly impressed by the Island and our cultural assets.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

The final supplementary from Mr. Mariscal.

2.6.9 Mr. Mariscal:

In the printed version of this response, it mentions the digital sector as one sector that the States would like to increase. My question is: how would you propose you increase the digital sector in prominence in Jersey?

Senator L.J. Farnham:

I do apologise, I did have to reduce my answer slightly to the written version because I did not realise that the Bailiff was going to impose the 90-second rule, but now we have the Chairman of the P.P.C. (Privileges and Procedures Committee) in the Chair, he is known for being much less harsh than the Bailiff, so he might give me a bit of leeway.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

That will do you no good at all, Minister.

Senator L.J. Farnham:

I think the digital sector, as represented now by Digital Jersey, which is a standalone body, similar to Visit Jersey, whose role is to promote all things digital in Jersey, is absolutely key for every business in every sector in the Island, especially if we want to improve productivity. We have noticed more tourism and hospitality sector businesses embracing technology and the digital sector, as we have in agriculture. We have now some planting machinery fitted with G.P.S. (global positioning system) that go along and plant much more efficiently, for example. So, yes, the digital sector and encouraging technology is vital to the economy across the board, not just in financial services, but in absolutely everything. We have supported that by funding Digital Jersey and we are going to let them get on with their job and support them as much as we can in the future.

2.7 Miss Dickinson of Beaulieu of the Minister for Infrastructure regarding ...

What key improvements, if any, have been made to the Island bus service to encourage more people to make use of it?

Deputy E.J. Noel (The Minister for Infrastructure):

Since becoming Minister, working in partnership with LibertyBus, many key improvements have been made to Jersey's bus services to increase capacity, including 36 per cent increase in services and increasing the average passenger capacity per vehicle with the use of double-decker buses and an improvement in the winter service, which is now much closer to that of the summer service. Increased frequency on high-demand routes, such as the number 1 and number 15 route, the introduction of discounted fares and unlimited travel tickets with the use of AvanchiCards has speeded up boarding and journey times while keeping fares reasonable. We have introduced a single pan-Island fare, currently an adult single journey costs only £1.50 with an AvanchiCard, which is less than the £1.60 upper band when it was in place in 2010. Passengers can now use the internet to track their buses on their smart phones and check live departure times from their bus stop. The modern bus fleet allows extra leg room, more comfortable seats, modern interior environment and low-emission engines. We have doubled the rate of installation of bus shelters from previous years with 12 in 2015, 13 in 2016, and we expect to deliver 14 new bus shelters this year. From the beginning of this month it is now possible to take an appropriate fold-up bicycle on the bus or indeed hire one from the LibertyBus scheme. We have also launched the Avanchi Access pilot scheme providing unlimited free bus travel to those with a disability that prevents them from driving. It should not be forgotten that in October last year LibertyBus won the national transport award for the most-improved bus service and only just missed out on winning the best bus operator prize against stiff competition from throughout the U.K.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Does anyone have a supplementary question for the Minister? Mr. Le Blancq.

2.7.1 Mr. Le Blancq:

What future plans do you have for the development of the LibertyBus Service in Jersey?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

We are working closely with LibertyBus. We see it as a partnership between ourselves and LibertyBus, and they have a number of schemes to bring forward. One scheme that was promoted

that was not taken up by the public, although the public did request it, was the village link, unfortunately that did not have an uptake, but they are looking at other such schemes to bring in additional routes. One was tried again to link up St. John through to St. Brelade and Red Houses, but again, although the public requested it, there was little usage. So we are looking with LibertyBus on a number of new initiatives and one that we are working closely with them on is to try to get double-deckers on the eastern route out to Gorey from St. Helier and also looking at the introduction of electrically-operated buses.

2.7.2 Mr. Davies:

Would you ever consider to change bus routes if certain ones became superfluous?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

Bus routes survive or demise on usage, so if an area of the Island, we saw an increase in usage, between ourselves and Liberty we would provide additional services to that area. The bus service is currently subsidised to the tune of in excess of £4 million per year from tax-funded sources and so additional services have to be effectively self-financing because we do not have any more funds to increase that subsidy further.

2.7.3 Miss Garton:

Deputy Noel, you stated here that currently an adult single journey costs £1.50 with an AvanchiCard, which is less than £1.60 upper band fare was in 2010. Would you be able to explain why, when I go on the bus without my student card, I have to pay £2.00 for an adult fare?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

I would suggest to the Member that they should use their AvanchiCard, be it student pass or an adult pass, wherever possible. If I can maybe use a non-parliamentary term, the £2.00 fare can be avoided if people purchase AvanchiCards, therefore they can take advantage of the savings, and if they are a regular user of the bus they can get unlimited travel passes that make it even cheaper.

2.7.4 Miss Mackereth:

Was the introduction of the double-decker buses a positive action when they are rarely fully occupied?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

The double-decker buses in the peak hours, which is where we are trying to encourage a modal shift from people using their private transport to using public transport, are fully occupied. We have increased both the numbers of buses on those routes at peak times to cope with the increase in capacity. It is difficult to predict throughout the day when the peaks and troughs will happen, but the cost of providing a double-decker on a route throughout the day is the same as providing a single-decker, so we have the spare capacity to cope with those unexpected peaks and troughs.

2.7.5 Miss McCarthy:

The Guernsey bus fare is £1.00 for anywhere in the Island and they have a smaller population using the service. Why can Jersey not, with a bigger population, have the same rate?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

We could have the same rate but we would be not spending £4 million of taxpayers' money a year, we would probably be double that. In Guernsey, yes, they do have a much smaller more-limited bus service that charge the user only a pound to do so, but their bus subsidy, we believe, is similar to ours, it is in the region of some £4 million a year. So I believe that we are getting better value and better choice and a better service for Islanders under our current system.

2.7.6 Miss Coxshall:

I agree that there has been a lot of improvements, but where there are bus routes, and in some places there are not many street lights, which can be dangerous, and especially in terms of school buses. Do you have any plans to change this?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

What we have done, and we continue to do so, is increase the number of bus stops that have bus shelters on them. It is very difficult in our Island because the vast majority of our road network does not have a roadside pavement and without that it is very difficult to safely put in a bus shelter, but we are expanding the shelter network, as I say we have doubled it over previous years, and we continue to do so, investing monies that we get from the Sustainable Transport Policy through our car park trading fund to reinvest that back into the bus system again to encourage people to use the buses as an alternative to using their private transport.

2.7.7 Miss Green:

You talked about improving conditions, however many of the school bus routes still use the old Connex buses, which have the bad seating, the small pitch that you talked about improving on the regular bus routes. Along with this, many of the school bus routes have recently been merged together. That means that you are having to get up earlier in the morning and getting home later at night. What would the States be doing to try to reduce that, because that can add significant time of student's lives trying to get home and do their homework each night?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

I sympathise with the Member. We are working with LibertyBus to find ways of improving the school bus service. It is the service, part of our service, the whole bus service, that receives the biggest subsidy. Members may not be aware that for a student daily travel is £1.50, 75 pence each direction, where the cost to Government for that journey is some additional £7.00 to £7.50. So the bus service for schools is an expensive one but it is a vital one and we are working with LibertyBus to make quality improvements and capacity improvements wherever we can.

2.7.8 Mr. Baretti:

Are there any plans to delay the finish times of popular bus routes to combat expensive taxis and the growing problem of illegal lifts?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

That is a very good question and I am working closely with the taxi industry, both the rank taxis and the private hire side of the business, as the Minister responsible for those bodies, I set the maximum fares that they can charge and they are at liberty to charge less and I believe that it is up to the industry to grasp that nettle and to take on the demands of the public and to provide them with the service that they require when they require it. We have made some in-roads in terms of providing temporary taxi ranks on Fridays and Saturday evenings to alleviate the problems that are experienced at Liberation Square.

[14:30]

2.7.9 Mr. O. Davies:

If you were to leave now and go to the Liberty Station you might see a couple of pigeons lying around. I am just wondering if you know if LibertyBus has any plan of action to eradicate that?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

None that I know. I do not believe that it is on the menu at the café there. It is a very good question, but I do not believe that there is any proactive extermination of our feathered friends.

2.7.10 Miss Fearn:

As you mentioned in your written report, the modern bus fleet for the public bus services have been updated. Why do the school bus services still remain the buses with the old seats and less leg room?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

It is simply down to the money that is available for investment. As I have said, we could increase the quality of the fleet more quickly, but that would involve more Government money, and simply we do not have the funds to do that, but we are working with LibertyBus to encourage them to swap out that fleet more quickly and on some of the school buses now they are using the more modern vehicles and, as time goes on, those vehicles will be used more and more and the older vehicles will be retired.

2.7.11 Miss Jones:

From a personal level, I have to walk 20 minutes to the nearest bus stop on an un-paved road and especially during the winter months I think that is extremely dangerous. Would the Minister ever consider improving the bus safety to get to the bus routes or even increasing the number of bus routes?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

It is a problem that we have, and it is a historical problem for the Island. Our roads have been there many, many decades, if not hundreds of years, and it is just the nature of the Island. It is not possible for us to put roadside pavements in throughout the Island, but we do where we can, particularly working with developers and getting some planning gains from these developers to improve the pedestrianisation of our Island. But several decades ago the green lane scheme was introduced to the Island and that goes some way to linking up the more remote parts of our Island to the main roads, which are served by the bus service.

2.7.12 Mr. Emmanuel:

The Minister speaks of a £7.00 cost to the States for every journey, how was this calculated?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

It is quite a complex calculation because it involves both the revenue costs of the fuel, the tyres, the maintenance of the vehicles, the wages of the drivers, but also the capital costs of the equipment involved, so it is quite a complex calculation, but it is, as I said, the typical journey per capita on the school bus service is some £8.50 or just over and so after you take the fare paid by the passenger off it is a subsidy in excess of £7.00 per journey from the taxpayers.

2.7.13 Miss Pallent:

You recently answered a question where you said that there was no money to update the school buses, but you then also said that the school buses had the largest supplement. I am just wondering why, if we have the money to update the public buses for the public, why the youth of the Island do not get the same treatment?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

They were at the time tendered as 2 separate contracts, it just so happened that LibertyBus won both, but they were 2 distinct contracts. That is something that we may look at in the future when the bus service comes up for retendering to put it as one package. But hopefully by then we would have replaced most of the older fleet with the newer vehicles.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

The final 2 questions, firstly Mr. Le Blancq.

2.7.14 Mr. Le Blancq:

The Minister has spoken about the restrictions he faces in regards to budgets and I appreciate that is the case, but why then is money being invested in a folding bike scheme when it could be potentially better invested in better routes and in buses and improvements to the health and safety?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

That is a scheme that is run by the charitable side of LibertyBus. LibertyBus is a social enterprise whereby all of the profits that they generate from the Island's bus service stays within the Island. Half of their profit comes back to my department for us to reinvest in the bus service and to reinvest in new routes and better buses, et cetera, but the other half is up to their charitable board to decide how they spend that and they have decided to try to encourage more people to explore more of our Island, both visitors and locals, by offering this scheme whereby foldable bikes can be taken on the buses so Islanders and visitors alike can explore more of the Island and enjoy the benefits that we have.

2.7.15 Miss Green:

Some areas of the Island do not receive a frequent bus service, for example Trinity only has a bus every 2 hours and it ends at about 7.00-ish at night. How is that helping reduce the Island's carbon footprint if people are having to have a car because there are no bus routes. Surely that is against the States' Environmental Sustainability Policy.

Deputy E.J. Noel:

In an ideal world we would have a bus network that reached all parts of the Island, but in practical terms that is not going to happen because bus routes, as I said, to get to further penetration to the more rural parts of the Island would require a bigger States subsidy than currently invested because you do need passenger numbers to make a bus route viable. So it is down to economics and, as the cost base is reduced, we may be able to expand routes in that area, but it does come down to the amount of money available to subsidise the service.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Do you wish a final supplementary, Miss Dickinson?

2.7.16 Miss E. Dickinson:

For people who want to travel from the east to the west of the Island, or vice versa, and have to take 2 buses, would you consider letting them reuse the ticket from the first bus instead of paying potentially £4.00 for the journey?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

That is a very good question. It is a question that has been raised a number of times and one that I have some sympathy with, but again it does come down to the subsidy and to do that the taxpayer would have to pick up that difference and so, yes, it would be cheaper for the individual to do that. But nothing is free in life, I am afraid, and so the cost would have to be then picked up out of our subsidy and we are there about trying to make the bus service available to as many people as possible, not just those who necessarily want to have a throughput ticket.

2.8 Mr. Ventura of Hautlieu of the Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services regarding ...

Given that many Jersey patients must go to the U.K. for treatment, what is the Minister doing to improve the range of care offered in the Island?

The Connétable of St. Peter (Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services):

I thank Mr. Ventura for his question. First of all I would like to apologise on behalf of the Minister for Health and Social Services, he also is unavoidably in the U.K. today, therefore it has fallen to me to answer your question. Jersey General Hospital already provides a wide range of acute services

equivalent to that which would be provided by a district general hospital in the U.K., despite serving only a population of 100,000 people. However, there are and will always be a certain number of procedures that cannot be carried out locally, either due to their complex nature or the reliance on specialist surgical or imaging equipment and expertise, for example, neurosurgery, burns I.T.U. (intensive therapy unit) services, transplant services, specialist children's services, and radiotherapy services. The size of our population and the frequency of medical and surgical conditions on the Island limits the number of certain procedures that consultants are able to perform and therefore it can be difficult for them to maintain the necessary levels of competency, accreditation and insurance required to carry out these procedures safely. Since 2014, there has been a significant reduction in the number of patients being referred to the U.K. for complex trauma and orthopaedics, ophthalmology, urology, breast surgery and cardiology treatments. In 2014, 1,865 patients were referred and this fell to 1,606 in 2016, a reduction of 14 per cent. This reduction in patient referrals to the U.K. has only been made possible as a result of our continual investment in services such as procurement of new equipment, our recruitment of new consultants to the Island who bring expertise or new surgical techniques, and through an expansion of our visiting consultant service, which sees health professionals from the U.K. providing local outreach clinics here in Jersey. This is made possible through our strategic partnerships with key U.K. hospital providers. We currently have 28 visiting consultants to the Island, an increase of 15 since 2014. As a department, work is continually underway to ensure that where it is safe, sustainable and affordable to do so, services are provided here in Jersey wherever possible thus minimising the need for Islanders to travel off-Island for treatment.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Does anybody wish to ask the Assistant Minister a supplementary question based on his answer? Mr. Kotedia.

2.8.1 Mr. Kotedia:

With the increase in the population on the Island, do you think it would be better to introduce more specialist procedures on the Island?

The Connétable of St. Peter:

In an ideal world, the answer is yes, it would be. Unfortunately, the surgeons and clinicians who have the specialities, to maintain their clinical licence to continue to operate, they need to be able to deal with a specific number of patients set out by their surgical colleges in the U.K. If they cannot do that then they will not be allowed to continue operating. The population of Jersey at around 100,000 in some of the marginal specialities would not be enough to keep those consultants here in Jersey. While we do as much as we possibly can, as I said in my earlier answer, we now have double the number of visiting consultants, so where they are not time-critical treatments we bunch together the number of people needing to see that particular surgeon and we bring him to Jersey to avoid those people having to go to the U.K., so there is only one person travelling rather than 20 or 30 people have to go over to the U.K. at that particular time for that speciality.

2.8.2 Miss Jones:

In your report you stated that you are recruiting new consultants to the Island. How can the Minister and Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services incentivise new consultants to come and work in Jersey given that a third of senior nurses in the Jersey General Hospital have resigned within the last year and 20 per cent of doctors are approaching retirement age or are planning to leave Jersey, especially in light of the shortages of staff in the U.K.?

The Connétable of St. Peter:

That was a very complex question. Jersey is a very attractive place for these qualified surgeons to come to work here. It has a very buoyant private practice opportunity for them and obviously, as I am sure you would all agree, it is a lovely place to live. Many people want to come to Jersey because

it is an ideal place to bring up their family, they can work and hopefully work in a newly built hospital, as you know we are working on it at the moment, working in a first-rate hospital with first-grade equipment and conditions and enjoying the benefits of being in Jersey. We see on all the senior clinical posts we get multiple applications from people wanting to come into Jersey. There are, as you quite rightly said in your question, pressures around senior nursing positions, there are pressures in the U.K., we are no different to the U.K., we are all experiencing those same pressures.

2.8.3 Mr. Mariscal:

Again, with the growing population, are there any plans to increase the number of ambulances or otherwise decrease the response times to get to an accident or otherwise?

The Connétable of St. Peter:

That is something we constantly monitor. There is a requirement for ambulances to reach an emergency scene within 10 minutes. In the last year, we have fallen short in some cases. What we are now doing, we are prioritising calls; for example there are periods where we will get multiple calls at the same time. What we now do, what the control centre of the ambulance service does, it asks the person what is the issue and if the person says: "Well I do not feel very well", and then another call comes in saying: "This man is laying on the pavement, I do not think he is breathing, I cannot see any signs of life", well it will go to the person that needs the urgent treatment first. That second patient may have to wait a few more minutes while a secondary ambulance is called out to deal with them. We constantly monitor that. There will become a point in time, potentially, where we will need to increase the size of the ambulances themselves, in the number of them that is, and also the staff to operate them at the same time. We are not there yet, but we constantly challenge the Chief Officer of the Ambulance Department, which is part of Health and Social Services, to maintain his response times and we challenge him on those every single month.

2.8.4 Miss Garton:

You said here that there are and always will be a certain number of procedures that cannot be carried out locally either due to the complex nature or their reliance on specialist surgical equipment and expertise. I was just wondering if, after the new hospital is built, do you hope that more equipment will be provided and therefore it will mean that less Jersey patients will have to travel, or do you think that the expertise will still be a problem, even though we are spending £297 million on the hospital redevelopment?

[14:45]

The Connétable of St. Peter:

The short answer is yes and yes. Certainly there are some people who will still have to go to the U.K. because, as you have quite rightly said, they will be unable to maintain their speciality in itself.

2.8.5 Mr. Corbel:

What actions are being taken to reduce the waiting times in our Accident and Emergency Department?

The Connétable of St. Peter:

That is an ongoing challenge. We triage all patients. Triage means they are first seen by a receiving nurse who measures the urgency of their requirement. Those who need urgent requirements go straight in to the A. and E. (Accident and Emergency) Department. Those that are there because they have an earache or they have cut their finger I am afraid will wait while the emergency cases are dealt with. That is what they call triaging; we deal with the most urgent people at the first possible time. There are always pressures at particular times of the day and yet you can go in there some days and they are all sitting there waiting for somebody to turn up and on other days there are people standing in the waiting room because they cannot get in. We see there are particular pressures at

weekend evenings, late evenings, when there is always an influx of people suffering injuries from having had too much alcohol or whatever or just over-enjoying themselves and that causes us significant pressures at those particular times. However, I can assure you, if you need urgent treatment, you will go straight in to the front door and you will be treated straight away in A. and E.

2.8.6 Mr. Le Blancq:

If, as Miss Jones said, we are losing medical practitioners who have worked here on the Island, as opposed to gaining them, then what is being done to improve welfare for those working within health in the Island?

The Connétable of St. Peter:

There are a number of reasons why some do leave. We see more of that within the nursing specialities. A lot of that is down to the high cost of housing in Jersey and also many of these experienced ward sisters, for example, they come with their families and their husbands find it difficult to find a job to help support the families at the same time, so sometimes it is those pressures that cause them to go back to the U.K. But with regard to housing, we are certainly working with Andium; that is the ex-Housing Department, now a wholly-owned entity of the States, to look at more key-worker accommodation and nurses and clinicians will get priority within that.

2.8.7 Miss Pallent:

A few questions ago you were talking about ambulances and you said that the way that you decide who gets the ambulance first is based on what someone says. However, you are basing who gets the ambulance first, not on a professional examination, but a second person account. Given that some people are more likely to panic and over-exaggerate than others in stressful situations, do you really think it is the best way to decide who gets an ambulance first?

The Connétable of St. Peter:

The one good measure, if somebody is shouting and screaming down the phone, they are breathing. It is the person who is laying on the pavement who is not breathing who is our first concern. So you are right, people do get aggressive and shout. There is no easy answer to the problem, we could just increase the number of ambulances and the number of staff, it would be costly and ineffective and inefficient. What we are doing now is what is common across the whole network of the United Kingdom within primary and secondary healthcare.

2.8.8 Mr. De Louche:

What is the cost, if any, to the States of Jersey for someone to receive specialist treatment in the U.K.?

The Connétable of St. Peter:

It can vary, exceedingly expensive, certainly 2 years ago we had a million pound patient on our books, one patient, cost £1 million in that particular year, and that could be just down to thousands of pounds, depending on the treatment. We are currently experiencing cost pressures within Health and Social Services for U.K. treatments as some hospitals in the U.K. that we had been dealing with wanted to treat us as non-U.K. people and they put all their charges up by 50 per cent. We have moved away from those to the other hospitals that are still delivering the same or better services but at the same rate as they would be charged within England itself.

2.8.9 Mr. Davis:

The Minister was just talking about the response times to patients in the A. and E. and he mentioned that some people go there with conditions such as earache and to my belief people do go there due to the fees in Jersey to see a G.P. (general practitioner) and they go there for conditions, which could easily be solved by a G.P. Obviously these people in the waiting rooms are stopping people with more serious injuries getting to see the doctors and getting the treatment they need to. Is there any

system in place or any ideas of a system to come in place such as a fine for time wasting or otherwise in the future?

The Connétable of St. Peter:

That is a very good question, it is one that has energised us for a number of years; it is very difficult. You get somebody, for example, from a lower socioeconomic background may come in requiring some treatment that you think that he or she could have gone to their G.P. for. If they cannot afford a G.P. then how do you fine them for coming in to A. and E.? It is just not possible and it is not something that we would wish to do and clinicians themselves, they have sworn an oath, the Hippocratic oath requires they must treat these people when they come in. The only way we can give some challenge to them is to make it inconvenient for them to be sitting there for several hours waiting to have their finger bandaged or have their sore throat seen to. It is an ongoing challenge, we deal with a lot of what we call primary care treatments at A. and E., primary care is the first place you go to, which is your G.P., your dentist, your chemist, and secondary care is what we deal with in the hospital. But we receive some additional support from the Minister for Treasury and Resources; he is very helpful, coming out of the Health Insurance Fund to help contribute to the costs of the primary care delivered within the secondary care. There is no easy answer, it is a constant problem and one we constantly keep under review. Thank you for your question.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I will just take one more question before I offer Mr. Ventura the final supplementary because we need to move on. Miss Box.

2.8.10 Miss Box:

The report mentions the services not offered here on-Island and notably mental health services are not mentioned and we were wondering are there any services offered here for mental health?

The Connétable of St. Peter:

Short answer is yes there are, we do have services for mental health. However, mental health has for many years been a Cinderella service and been somewhat ignored and it is an area where we are now focusing much more intently on mental health in itself, the pressures in there, and certainly we do have a number of people now we send to the U.K. for the specialist care and treatment that they need for those specialist conditions particularly in mental health.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Mr. Ventura, do you have a final supplementary?

2.8.11 Mr. Ventura:

Thank you very much for answering the question and thank you to everyone that put something extra in. I would just like to ask: the Minister has referred many times to bringing people in, specialists from the U.K. How, if anyone in Jersey would like to further their career on those paths that we cannot do right now, are we going to help them? Are we going to put them into some programme to go to the U.K., are we going to help them in some sort of way so they can further their career in that speciality?

The Connétable of St. Peter:

It is a very difficult path to go through to get into the medical profession, as I am sure that many of you are well aware. The one thing we have started here in Jersey is looking at the pressures mentioned by one of our colleagues across the Chamber, is in nursing, and we have now started up an on-Island degree course where we are training up local people particularly to come into nursing and I think we are on the third cohort of people coming through the system as we speak. It is a challenge, it is always great to see people that go off to university, get their medical qualifications, and hopefully one day will come back home to support us here in Jersey. It is an ongoing problem

for undecided students thinking about going into medical careers and it is an ongoing problem for us to help them in any sort of way other than certainly through the nursing we can offer that course, which is a degree course, here on-Island. May I also thank all the Members here this afternoon for their attention and for their very challenging questions as well, thank you very much.

2.9 Mr. Morby of Victoria College of the Minister for External Relations regarding ...

Once the United Kingdom completes its withdrawal from the European Union, how do you expect Jersey's international finance sector to be impacted and what measures are being proposed to mitigate this?

Senator P.M. Bailhache (The Minister for External Relations):

Jersey is outside the European Union and has always been a third country to Europe for the purposes of financial services and that will remain the position after the U.K.'s withdrawal from the E.U. (European Union). Jersey is an outward-looking country that will continue its programme of trading with all parts of the world. In the short term, there may be an element of uncertainty, which could lead to a period of instability for financial services both in Jersey and indeed in the United Kingdom, which is Jersey's largest trading partner. So far as mitigating measures are concerned, work in recent years has demonstrated the diversified client base in financial services markets, especially new markets in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. These are significant markets that will support or should support the financial services industry in Jersey into the future.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Are there any supplementary questions for the Minister? Mr. Morby.

2.9.1 Mr. Morby:

How does Jersey currently benefit from the U.K.'s membership in the European Union?

Senator P.M. Bailhache:

I am not sure that it is possible to say that Jersey benefits at all from the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union. As I said in my answer to the principal question, Jersey is not a part of the European Union as a third country and its relationship with the United Kingdom should not be affected by the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union. So I think that would be my answer to your question.

2.9.2 Mr. Pallett:

You just said that Jersey's relationship with the European Union has nothing to do with the U.K., however I was reading a European website a couple of hours before this debate and if I was to quote it, it says that: "Jersey enjoys full independence except for international relations and defence, which are the responsibility of the U.K. Government, and is therefore considered a third country." Therefore, how can you say that Jersey's position as a third country is secure if the U.K. leaves the European Union if our international relationships rely on the U.K. Government?

Senator P.M. Bailhache:

It is true that our constitutional position with the United Kingdom involves the United Kingdom having responsibility for our defence and for our international relations. But our relationship with the European Union is something that is entirely different. The relationship with the European Union depends upon a protocol, which is attached to the United Kingdom's membership of the E.U., and that protocol, as Members will probably know, entitles us to export goods freely to the European Union without any tariffs and that is the impact upon Jersey of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union.

2.9.3 Mr. Mariscal:

Due to the U.K. leaving the European Union, will Jersey look to expand economic ties with international markets in any way or will it instead look to consolidate its trading relationships with European Union member states?

Senator P.M. Bailhache:

I think it will be very important for Jersey to try to develop new markets outside the European Union. As I mentioned in my answer to the principal question, we are seeking to develop markets in Africa, in China, other parts of Asia, and the Middle East, and those markets I think are going to be very important because they are in no way related to the European Union, with which our relationship has its ups and downs.

2.9.4 Mr. Mash:

It says in your response: "Our diverse base of underlying business will not necessarily be affected by the UK's withdrawal from the European Union." Do you have any evidence to back up that claim and do you have any data on how many businesses are based in Jersey due to Jersey's access to the single market?

Senator P.M. Bailhache:

There is statistical evidence as to the amount of funds, which are deposited in Jersey from places outside the European Union. We know, for example, that approximately 20 per cent of the funds deposited in Jersey banks come from the Gulf area and there is certainly evidence that our relationship with other parts of Asia, in particular China, has been of benefit to Jersey. These are markets, which certainly need to be developed into the future.

[15:00]

2.9.5 Mr. Le Blancq:

It says here in your response that: "In the short term, while there may be an element of uncertainty, this could lead to a period of instability for financial services both in Jersey and the U.K." If that is the case, then what is being done to sort of quash or to prevent this uncertainty from having a more direct impact on the financial services in Jersey?

Senator P.M. Bailhache:

I think I can say, hopefully without any element of boasting, that Jersey was one of the few places, which was prepared for the decision of the United Kingdom electorate to leave the European Union and some of you may be aware that the Government of Jersey lodged in the States, within a few days of the referendum result, a report setting out what our aspirations were in terms of the new situation arising from the U.K.'s leaving the European Union. I think that the preparations that had been made by the Island's Government will stand us in good stead and will demonstrate that, so far as Jersey is concerned, the instability, which may afflict other places, will be of lesser importance. Of course we are a small place and if there are tremors affecting the financial services industry in the United Kingdom then those are bound to have some effect upon Jersey. To be frank, there is very little we can do about that.

2.9.6 Mr. Bridge:

The Minister has made both verbal and written references to emerging markets in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. I was wondering what measures of due diligence have been taken and whether these will change with the diversification of the markets we are a part of?

Senator P.M. Bailhache:

I am not sure whether the questioner is referring to the possibility of corruption in emerging markets, but if he is that is certainly an issue, which we are having to address. There are countries in Africa, which fare very well in that respect, and the relationship, which we are forging with a small country

called Rwanda in the centre of Africa is one which is very important to us and will be I think increasingly important. The Chief Minister signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the country not very long ago and has just returned from a visit and no doubt will be eager to answer questions from any of you in that respect. But due diligence is a problem in some countries and it is something which we have to deal with on an individual basis on a country by country basis.

2.9.7 Mr. Emmanuel:

With regard to Mr. Mariscal's question, will there be the possibility for Jersey to join the European Union as a member state especially in terms of benefiting the finance industry?

Senator P.M. Bailhache:

The European Union is a union of sovereign states and Jersey is not a sovereign state, it has a very high measure of autonomy and, as Members will know, is entirely responsible for its own destiny except in respect to defence and international responsibility for foreign affairs. So, unless the Island were to take the step of seeking to become an independent state, it would not be possible to join the European Union.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

A final question before I come to Mr. Morby. Mr. Mash.

2.9.8 Mr. Mash:

You said that the Government made preparations for the decision to leave the European Union. What preparations have been made and is the Government committed to staying inside the single market?

Senator P.M. Bailhache:

The preparations that were made by the Government included talking to other States Members, talking to stakeholders like the Chamber of Commerce, the unions, the different industries, the fishing industry, to understand what their feelings were in relation to the prospective referendum, which was taking place in the United Kingdom. Questions were obviously asked as to what effect a decision to leave the E.U. would have upon all these different industries and the result of that in a nutshell was that the conclusion was reached that the status quo, which we currently enjoy under Protocol 3, was really the optimum solution and the result of that was that the Government announced that it was going to seek in its discussions with the United Kingdom to preserve the status quo so far as it could.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

A final supplementary, Mr. Morby, do you wish?

2.9.9 Mr. Morby:

Final question, yes. Does the Minister believe that Brexit could have a positive effect on any of the Island's trade sectors and, if so, how?

Senator P.M. Bailhache:

That is a very interesting question. I do not know the answer to it. There are certainly opportunities, which a number of industries have identified. The tourism industry, for example, considers that it might benefit from the difference in the exchange rate with the euro because Jersey becomes a cheaper place to visit for those who are coming from European countries, so that is a potential advantage for the Island. Certainly some of the exporters, certainly the fishing industry, consider that there might be advantages for them too. But I think the proof of all this will be in the eating of the pudding.

2.10 Mr. Emmanuel of De La Salle of the Minister for Environment regarding ...

Deputy Noel, what steps are being made to replace fossil fuel dependence with alternative green sources utilising the Island's natural resources?

Deputy E.J. Noel (The Minister for Infrastructure - rapporteur):

If I may convey the apologies of the Minister for Environment who has had an unavoidable hospital appointment this afternoon, so I will endeavour to deal with supplementaries to the best of my knowledge. I have to start with a second apology because the written answer has a typo in it, it is: “*Pathway 2050: An Energy Plan for Jersey*, agreed by the States Assembly in May 2014, outlines a goal of sustainable, affordable and secure energy for the Island. The document describes a wide range of actions that aims to reduce Jersey’s greenhouse gas emissions to 80 per cent lower than those of the baseline year of 1990. This commitment is in line with the Island’s international obligations through the Kyoto Protocol. Chapter 4 of the Energy Plan outlines our actions around renewable energy both at the micro, or domestic/household level, or the utility scale which includes commercial/community scale or even larger scale, utility, generation. An example of utility scale energy might be marine energy such as wind or tidal power or onshore power from our energy from waste plant. Recent examples include the new building bylaws which help to drive renewable energy solutions in new domestic builds or those undergoing significant refurbishment. The Minister has also exempted from planning permission even larger areas of roof coverage for photovoltaic panels. He and I are heartened to see the prices dropping for renewable energy solutions such as air source heat pumps and P.V. (photovoltaic) or solar thermal panels. As the costs of renewables come even closer to that from conventional power sources such as oil and gas heating, people will continue to make renewable choices for their homes and businesses for both sustainability and economic reasons. The States of Jersey have also incorporated renewable solutions into its own portfolio of buildings. By way of example, St. Martin’s Primary School incorporates heat pumps and P.V. panels alongside many other sustainable building solutions like rainwater catchment. The energy performance of the school is being constantly monitored and its operating parameters continue to be improved. The States of Jersey continues to work on putting in place the framework to enable utility scale marine renewable energy. While any project would be considered on its own particular merit after extensive review and scrutiny, Jersey’s waters hold potential for offshore wind projects as well as ultimately tidal stream technology as this reaches the commercial stage. The gift of the seabed from the Queen into the Island’s ownership has been helpful in forwarding progress in this area.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Anyone have any supplementary questions for the Acting Minister?

2.10.1 Mr. Le Blancq:

What is being done in terms of education to educate the Island’s younger residents about the opportunities for renewable energy sources and green living in the future?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

I can only comment from my own experience with my own child, but throughout the education experience sustainability and conserving the planet’s resources has always been high on the agenda and I welcome the efforts made by the Minister for Education and his team in promoting the culture within our young people of making sure that we leave as little footprint on this Earth as we can.

2.10.2 Miss Hart:

The States of Jersey currently benefits from the revenue and funds accumulated by Jersey Electricity. Surely this results in biased opinions and undermines the arguments brought forward by States Members on whether or not sources of renewable energy should be implemented.

Deputy E.J. Noel:

Yes, the States of Jersey, and therefore the people of Jersey, are the majority shareholders in the Jersey Electricity Company, but they do source the majority of their power through the European grid from sustainable sources and that has meant that our carbon footprint has been decreased by some 28 to 30 per cent since the 1990s.

2.10.3 Mr. Power:

The Minister spoke of potential for offshore wind projects and tidal stream technology. Is there any plan to bring this to reality?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

These are very, very expensive projects that would probably be difficult for an Island community of 100,000 to self-fund, but we are working in partnership with our nearest neighbours, the French, and their schemes for bringing in wind power into the Bay of St. Malo and seeing whether or not it is possible for Jersey to participate in that by renting effectively to them parts of our seabed. As energy sourced from tidal movement progresses, I believe there have been some experimental works off the coast of Alderney. As that progresses and becomes more commercial again we will have opportunities to see whether or not we can work with partners to have such energy sources being derived from our waters.

2.10.4 Miss Coxshall:

You said a lot about tidal energy and things in the marine area, I was wondering what has been done to take into account any interference to wildlife.

Deputy E.J. Noel:

That is a very good question. Jersey is fortunate that it has a fantastic coastal waters, we have a Ramsar site not only off La Collette going towards St. Clement, God's own Parish, but we also have protected areas in the Minquiers and Ecréhous and the Paternosters, and it is a vital part of our culture and our responsibility to make sure that any impact on the wildlife in our seas is mitigated.

2.10.5 Miss Lawson:

2050 is a very long time to give yourself to reduce Jersey's greenhouse gas emissions. In the near future, what are you planning to do?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

Jersey signed up to the principles of Kyoto and that was the timeframe of that particular international agreement. In the shorter term the Department of the Environment has ensured through the energy grant scheme that those on lower incomes and particularly some of our pensioners have well-insulated efficient homes and, as our housing stock and indeed our transport contribute a significant amount of our carbon footprint, it is these areas that my colleague, the Minister for Environment, is working on.

2.10.6 Mr. Mariscal:

In regards to what the Minister spoke of about the development of St. Martin Primary School, is there any plans to implement more renewable sources to other schools around the Island in the near future?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

Yes, certainly, as and when the planning process has been completed and we are able to construct the new Les Quennevais Secondary School; that school will incorporate again renewable energy sources in its design from day one.

2.10.7 Mr. Bridge:

The Minister made reference to the coastal resources of the Island and recently exemplified by Sky News in their ocean clean-up campaign, I was wondering if the Minister had any plans to safeguard our coasts from any kind of litter or unwanted presence?

[15:15]

Deputy E.J. Noel:

That is a very, very good question and I am sure the Minister would respond along similar lines to myself. It is up to all of us to participate in making sure that our environment is as clean on our beaches and indeed on land itself as possible and to make litter a thing of the past. Earlier in my political career one of my constituents came forward with the P.U.P. (pick up plastic) idea and they spent their times when they walked their dogs or whatever on the beach, they would pick up any pieces of plastic that they saw. I would encourage all Islanders to do likewise.

2.10.8 Mr. Davies:

Do you believe anything needs to be done to lessen reliance on energy from Europe?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

We do have our resilience on the Island, the Jersey Electricity Company do have backup power sources but they are obviously carbon-based, and we do have our Energy from Waste plants, which does produce some 9 per cent of the Island's electricity requirements. The energy that we do get from Europe is of a non-carbon basis. Again, for an Island of our size, it is certainly more financially attractive for our Islanders, but also one that means that we can keep our carbon footprint as low as possible.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Because of time restrictions, I must now ask Mr Emmanuel if he has a final supplementary.

2.10.9 Mr. Emmanuel:

With regard to heat pumps and other domestically available environmentally-friendly products, what consideration has been given to introducing a tax reduction from energy saving and low-carbon products, thereby encouraging more usage domestically?

Deputy E.J. Noel:

It is a very good question, probably one more for the Minister for Treasury and Resources than the Minister for Environment, because any tax reduction is a Treasury matter. But we can see that the market is moving, the cost of P.V. panels, the cost of solar panels to heat water, et cetera, air-source heat pumps, ground-source heat pumps, the cost of those are coming down to make them comparable over the life of a building to conventional means, so I believe that the market itself will get parity in a very short period of time.

The Connétable of St. Peter:

If I may crave your indulgence for a moment, I failed to answer a question from the young lady opposite earlier on where she asked about, would we look at new treatment regimes and equipment in the new hospital build. The answer is yes, we will, and we are currently looking at all those opportunities.

3. Questions to Ministers Without Notice - The Chief Minister

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

We now come to 15 minutes of questions without notice to the Chief Minister. Does anybody wish to ask questions of the Chief Minister? Mr. Le Blancq.

3.1 Mr. Le Blancq:

Yes. Chief Minister, judging from what the Minister for Infrastructure was saying earlier, he is experiencing some problems with his budgets, are there any plans to increase his budgets in the coming years and, if not, why not?

Senator I.J. Gorst (The Chief Minister):

It is a strange part of being in Government, but every Minister would like to increase their budget most of the time. What we did when we started this Government was to say that if there are priorities,

and there are priorities that we want to spend money on, we want to spend money on health service provision, we want to spend money on education provision, we want to spend money on infrastructure provision, but at the same time we want to present a balanced budget because we think that is absolutely the right thing to do. So the Minister for Infrastructure would always be able to find projects to spend money on. He is making some efficiencies in his budget, he is outsourcing some of those services, and yet at the same time, when it comes to capital spending on projects, then he has more money than he has ever had in the past. That, I think, is the right approach, efficiencies, doing more within your existing budget, where you make an exceptional case then we will consider giving you an increased budget.

3.2 Miss Garton:

Senator, you told *I.B. (International Business) Times U.K.* from your office at Cyril Le Marquand House that: "We have a long history of welcoming people, just over 50 per cent were born here and just under 50 per cent are immigrants and that has changed over the last 20 years, we are much more a multinational melting pot than we have ever been." Can you explain why, by December 2015, the proposal to house refugees had been dropped and that, Senator, you told the Jersey Assembly that it would pose too great a risk? I was just wondering what you meant by this.

Senator I.J. Gorst:

Yes, when we saw the great movement peoples in the summer of 2015, from the Middle East, some of those movements of people were arising from the Syrian war, some were just from North Africa and had been moving through into Europe for many years, somewhat unnoticed. I took the view that we should try and move beyond our traditional support; our traditional support having been providing funds and support for basic needs where we found either natural disasters or where we found war. I thought that we ourselves here should explore whether we could not take a small number of refugees arising out of the Syrian conflict. We did a lot of work, I took a lot of advice, we initially were considering whether we could not work together with the British Government on something that they called the vulnerable persons relocation scheme, but because we have a different legislative framework and because we have a different income support framework to the United Kingdom, it became apparent during that exploration that we would not be able to provide what would in effect be a different provision for a small number of families, just for a small number of families, anyone who came under the vulnerable relocation scheme into the United Kingdom would have been able to come to Jersey and benefit from those special provisions. It became apparent to me that if I were to try and make that argument in the States, which is what it would have needed, that would not have been possible because, rightly, people who were already on the waiting list for housing provision, people who were already waiting to get income support, would have said they did not think it was appropriate. So we needed to balance all of those things and what we ended up doing was ensuring that the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission gave more money than they had initially intended to give out to the camps on the Syrian border in Jordan and I went with the Chairman of the Overseas Aid Commission to see how that money is benefiting people's lives every day. That is a policy priority that we have continued, the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission is continuing to provide money for winterisation, not only on the borders of Syria, but also reaching into Syria with some of the U.N. (United Nations) organisations as well.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

We have already taken up nearly 5 minutes and we have only had 2 questions, so if I could ask both the questioners and the Chief Minister to be a little more succinct so we can get as many questions in as possible please. Mr. Morby.

3.3 Mr. Morby:

Amid recent calls for greater independence for the Island, how far would the Chief Minister approve of greater autonomy?

Senator I.J. Gorst:

I have been absolutely clear and, had you asked the Minister who was present earlier this afternoon what his view was, you would find that he felt that he was misquoted in that particular argument. Jersey's Government is not seeking independence, what we are seeking to do, through these 2 years of the Brexit negotiation, once the trigger is pulled on the 29th, is to build even stronger and deeper relationships with the British Government because that is in our best interests. Brexit for us is nothing to fear because for financial services we are already a third country to the European Union; that means we are not in the European Union. We need however to make sure the British Government, when they are around the negotiating table as they will be for these next 2 years, they understand what we want, they understand what we have to offer, they understand where our interests are, and we must, while building those positive relationships, also make sure that our position is aligned with their position. When they stand up for the City of London, they are standing up for Jersey. When they stand up for financial services, they are standing up for Jersey. When they stand up for a protection for the common travel area, they are standing up for Jersey. It is in a myriad of policy issues where our interests are absolutely aligned. They will only, I think, continue to go out to bat for us if we build those positive relationships and we have built even better and stronger relationships since the U.K. decided in its referendum that it was going to leave the European Union.

3.4 Mr. Fitzgerald:

In relation to voting, I think the last election had a really low outcome of voters. Why do you think people are not voting and how do you propose to fix this?

Senator I.J. Gorst:

I think every Member of the States has their own pet theory about why electoral turnout is so low. Some say it is because of our system, although it is built on our history that it is not easily understood. I think it is easily understood but I think there is a democratic deficit with regard to the way that the elections for this Assembly are currently held and we have had debates in this Assembly only recently about whether we should change those. There is also the idea that this Assembly is removed from the public and from people's everyday lives; that we do not engage with the public as much as we should on the big issues of the day and people's view of politics and politicians have changed and we have seen that, not only in the Brexit debate, we have seen it in America and we are seeing it now in the elections right across Europe. But we as a Government are working with P.P.C. and the Greffe do some very good work on engaging members of the public to turn out and vote. So we have this situation where we now have many more people registered to vote at any election because of all the work that is done, now we have to move on and make sure that those people who are registered, they are supported to vote and they think that their vote can make a difference. It absolutely can. We are facing more uncertainty now than we ever have because Europe is uncertain and we are surrounded by that uncertainty. Never has it been more important or will it be more important to vote than it will be in 2018.

3.5 Mr. Wankling:

There is quite a lot of light pollution in Jersey, which has an adverse effect on the environment and reduces the amount of astronomy that can be done. Would it be possible to turn off exterior lighting on States-owned buildings, say for instance between 11.00 p.m. and 5.00 a.m. when they are not really being used, to diminish this effect?

Senator I.J. Gorst:

Lighting is one of those issues that I am told is there as much about security to enhance the environment. I know in the Parishes, some Parishes light up their churches and make the Parish particularly beautiful in the evening, but it seems to me that is a good suggestion, not only from a light pollution point of view, but also from a cost reduction point of view, so it is an issue that I will take up with the Minister for Infrastructure who is responsible for States-owned properties.

3.6 Miss Radcliffe:

Despite recent advancements towards gender equality internationally, can you justify why it is still the case that husbands must give consent for their wives to negotiate their joint tax returns?

Senator I.J. Gorst:

I cannot and I would not wish to. Later, not later this week, the beginning of next week, you will see the Treasury Department publish a compendium of details around personal income tax. Basically it is a collation of lots of statistics which are already in the public domain around decisions that the States Assembly have made over the last 10 or 12 years. That information is then going to be used as a basis to go forward and deliver, one hopes to certainly explore, but I hope deliver independent taxation so that we will remove once and for all -- it will take time, but we will remove once and for all what can only be viewed as an archaic approach to the taxation of members of our community.

3.7 Mr. Nash:

Could you live off £7.18 an hour and if not why do you expect others to do so?

Senator I.J. Gorst:

I have not always been Chief Minister. I have had other jobs and I have not always been this age, and I have lived previously on what would be today considered a low income. When we go out into the workplace we start at a certain level and we work towards not only improving ourselves but also improving the income that we may bring into our household. Having said that, of course, the Employment Forum is responsible for considering whether the minimum wage is appropriate and they report to the Minister for Social Security every year on those issues.

[15:30]

If she were here still she would tell you that she had instructed them to consider whether that minimum wage should not be increased faster than was previously planned and alongside that we want to work with employers to make sure that they are paying a fair wage and that they are distributing the benefits of the profit that they may receive fairly, not only amongst shareholders or directors but also amongst workers as well.

3.8 Mr. Bridge:

Does the Minister believe that political parties are an effective method of representation for members of our society?

Senator I.J. Gorst:

I understand that my colleague in Guernsey, giving a speech to either the Chamber of Commerce in Guernsey or the Institute of Directors in Guernsey, said that he thought that now might be the time for parties in Guernsey. I see we are joined by the chairman of our political party here in Jersey in the balcony; he was recently in Guernsey making exactly that suggestion. Let us be honest, there are positives to political parties that we here articulate it by those who are in parties, but there are also positives to having independent Members of this Assembly, and when we are visited by guests from outside of Jersey one of the things that they always say to us is they wish that they had more independent politicians in their particular legislature because it allows them to think about each individual issue. The benefit of party politics, of course, is that you can coalesce around a particular policy platform. Interestingly, what have we seen in the presidential election in France, we see that the traditional party support has not held up; some more extreme parties are gaining support, but also we see this idea of a movement which is much more of a coalition of views of right and left. And it might be that in Jersey we may not move to party politics like some would wish but it might be that we see over the course of the next months and years a more of a movement, a coalition of different views coming together and standing together.

3.9 Miss Green:

Transport to and from the Island is constantly delayed or broken. Would you support that companies should lose their contracts due to lack of reliability?

Senator I.J. Gorst:

I do not think we can simply say that transport is constantly delayed or broken. I think we have to divide air transport, which on the whole, other than fog, performs incredibly well and we have more links by more providers of air, I think, of virtually any other geography or population size that you would find anywhere else. That is good but we should never take that for granted; we must continue to make sure that is the case. One of those reasons why tourism remains important is because it keeps the numbers up and it keeps those connections. But there is no doubt that there has been an issue over the last 18 months, not so recently with Condor and their bringing of a new boat on the northern route in that contract. If they were here this afternoon they would hold their hands up and say to you they did not get it right, they did not do well enough, they were not reliable and they were not providing the frequency of service that we need. On the southern route largely they have done well but on the northern route they knew they had to be better; they have done better, albeit every time there is a substantial delay or a technical problem they get criticised for it. They absolutely know that their interests and our interests are aligned, and that is a reasonable cost, reliable service both north and south, and the Minister for Economic Development is working with them to ensure that they continue to do that and a number of the options that they are looking at is does the current fleet that they have got on that northern route, is it really what we need for the future going forward. We are exploring those issues with them because it is, as you indicate in your question, a really important issue.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

That, I am afraid, completes the time allocated for questions without notice to the Chief Minister. On your behalf can I thank the Chief Minister and indeed the other Ministers and Assistant Ministers who have been with us this afternoon? They are all extremely busy people but because they recognise the importance of this event and the importance of your views and things you want to know about, have joined us this afternoon. I have to say, and I am sure they will agree, the questions have been good and challenging and meaningful and I think I would appreciate, and I am sure you appreciate the way that the Ministers and Assistant Ministers have answered your questions fully and openly. So perhaps we could express our thanks in the traditional way. [Approbation] Thank you. Thank you, Chief Minister.

PUBLIC BUSINESS:**4. That all schools should be mixed gender****The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):**

We now move to Public Business and my first proposition is in the name of De La Salle College and I ask the Greffier to read the proposition.

The Greffier of the States:

The Assembly is asked whether it is of opinion that all schools should be mixed gender.

4.1 Mr. O'Neill:

Our proposition is that all schools should be mixed gender. We believe this is an issue which is widely prevalent in our Island due to their being 4 single-gender schools, all within a concentrated area. From G.C.S.E. (General Certification of Secondary Education) results alone it is clear that all 4 of the single-gender schools achieve the highest grades in the Island. This is not necessarily due to them being single gender though, rather it is partially due to them being fee-paying, and the 2 highest performing schools, Victoria College and Jersey College for Girls, both requiring an entrance examination. This obviously makes the selection pool far more refined in terms of academics. We feel this helps dispel the commonly spread myth that having males and females separated during

education will lead to higher attainment levels. Although there are benefits to single-gender school, in some circumstances it can have adverse effects on the students in terms of their lack of socialisation with the opposite gender; this is a point we really want addressed today. Firstly, single-gender schools by their very nature, lead to an increase in gender stereotypes due to a lack of experience of the opposite gender and therefore leading to an increase in assumptions made with regard to the opposite gender. In the case of boys, they are often made to feel empowered as a superior gender and this ludicrous mentality can be taken with them into further education and the workplace. This obviously leads to a lack of cohesion due to the simple inaccuracy of the mindset. The American Council for CoEducational Schooling found that boys who spend more time with other boys become increasingly aggressive, and girls who spend more time with other girls become more sex-type. However, let us be clear, we are not saying that this system will immediately and absolutely be beneficial to all, rather for the majority it can provide a more informed and less socially awkward atmosphere to learning and these traits should transfer, hopefully, with the help of time, to society as a whole. This policy's objective is to reduce social exclusion in schools and reduce prejudice of both genders towards each other. Ask yourself the reasoning behind not having school-specific ethnicities or those from certain backgrounds; this is the same as our line of reasoning as to why we should not segregate men and women. Historically segregation has never brought about benefit or cohesion to a society, only ideas of elitism and prejudice. Not only do we see this in the historical context but in schools today. A large proportion of students come out of single-gender schools without knowing how to converse confidently with what, I think is easy to forget, is literally half the population. Alternatively, being in mixed-gender schools, students of all backgrounds can feel more accepted and comfortable due to a greater range of students being incorporated within the school society. This would therefore lead to students being able to achieve higher academic attainment due to being less focussed on social engagement. Statistics show that progress is already being made with regards to moving towards mixed-gender schools. There are now approximately a third female and half as many male schools compared with figures 20 years ago. This is a trend that is likely to increase and we can view a correlation of this and also tolerance with regards to our multicultural British society. It may be argued that single-gender schools are out-performing mixed schools, a pattern which is apparent in Jersey. However, upon further enquiry it can be discovered that this is the case on the unfair grounds that, as previously mentioned, both Victoria College and Jersey College for Girls require an entrance examination. As previously discussed again this results in the College having a higher average level of attainment when students arrive to the school generally leading to higher results when they leave the school. With regard to De La Salle College and Beaulieu, they are higher achieving not due to examinations on entering but due to an ethos and culture centred on academic achievement held by the students. As a member of the school I can vouch for that being true. Therefore, we can conclude that they achieve higher not as a result of greater intelligence or through being segregated by gender, but due to entrance examinations in the case of Victoria College and J.C.G. (Jersey College for Girls), and in the case of Beaulieu and De La Salle, an academic standard of ethos. Clearly the benefits of a single-gender school do not come from their segregation but from the previously-mentioned factors. In all actuality it seems the only effects of this divide is the development of socially, arguably impaired individuals. As a case study let us view Hautlieu. Obviously the entrance examination gives ... the selection process are slightly more refined in terms of academics and this allows for higher attainment levels; however, their results are not so far different from De La Salle College's and Beaulieu's and I would argue, as with my fellow Members here, that this is not due to it being a mixed school but due to other factors such as school culture and state funding, et cetera. There is a clear indication that the single-gender schools are not as effective in producing well-rounded citizens. This is our focus; whether this be in terms of their ability to socialise, achieve academically and having an informed position on their gender as well as others. Statistics back this claim with numbers of parents choosing single-gender educational institutes decreasing. Currently only 10 per cent of boys and 16 per cent of girls are educated in single-gender schools, and as previously mentioned there are now a third fewer exclusively female schools and almost a half of that in terms of male schools, a trend that only seems to be continuing into the future.

A study of the American Council on Education Reports reveals that there is less academic disparity between male and female students overall and a far greater achievement gap between students in different racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups. Surely there should be more focus on closing these bigger gaps in attainment, encouraging acceptance, and less focus on outdated needless divisions. Thank you.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Is the proposition seconded? **[Seconded]**

4.1.1 Mr. Fitzgerald:

Sir, I second proposition. I do not have --

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Mr. Fitzgerald, you do not have to speak now if you do not wish to; your choice.

Mr. Fitzgerald:

No, I will speak now. So essentially I just want to emphasise the social impact of an increase in mixed-gender schools in terms of being socialised alongside the other gender. We believe that it will remove the "us versus them" mentality that comes with increased segregation, which overall is bad for social cohesion. So this is the thing; while boys may perform better in mixed-gender schools, girls tend to perform better in single-gender schools. However, we believe that a better society is more important than better academic attainment. It is more important for there to be well-rounded individuals than high-achieving individuals and obviously that is very opinionated but I think it is something to consider, but at the very least there should be a higher focus on balance between social cohesion over academic attainment. Thank you.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

The proposition has been proposed and seconded. **[Seconded]** It is now open for debate. Does anyone wish to speak? Miss Fearn?

4.1.2 Miss Fearn:

As I speak you will have to excuse any incompetence on my part - according to the report provided by De La Salle - as apparently I am compromised in a workplace with male counterparts as a result of my schooling in a single-sex school.

[15:45]

Primarily I believe it is fair to say that the American Council for CoEducational Schooling is quite clearly biased towards promoting coeducational institutions, as a quotation from their website evidently states: "Our mission is to work with educators, families, and communities to promote and improve coeducation in schools from preschool through higher education". Therefore this source of information is not the most reliable or a creditable source to base the argument that De La Salle proposes on. In addition the table of Best Eight Value provided in the report distinctly shows that students at Jersey College for Girls have made the most progress between the end of key stage 2 and the end of key stage 4, reinforcing the fact that single-sex schools highly improved the academic achievements of girls compared to mixed-gender schools and although J.C.G. is a selective school, non-selective institutions such as St Albans School and Hitchin Girls' School in the U.K. were still in the top 10 for the highest G.C.S.E. achievements in 2016. Conclusively it is undeniable that girls perform better in a single-gender environment, and as a member of an all girls school myself, I can state that I do not at all feel that I have been sex-typed by my peers nor to do I feel incapable of communicating with a male, should I happen to come across one inside or outside of school, because 2 of the members of Victoria College sitting in this room are in my Spanish class and I do have to co-operate with them, which I believe I am more than competent to do. As a part of our Project

Trident as well, most of us were in male-dominated workplaces and I speak on behalf of the whole team when I say that none of us found we were hindered in any way to co-operate with our male colleagues as a result of our single-sex schooling. Thank you. [Approbation]

4.1.3 Mr. Davis:

Agreeing with Miss Fearn on the other side of the Chamber there [**Laughter**], first of all I wish to create the point that in your report, Mr. O'Neill, your report reads that same-sex education reinforces sex stereotypes. Granted I cannot speak for the other Members of this Chamber, but when I think of a stereotypical young lady, especially in Jersey, the only things that can come to mind are that they are well-educated, polite, individualistic, and a prosperous individual. If this is the stereotype which same-sex education is therefore promoting then I can see no problem why we should be integrating all of the schools into mixed education. Second of all, you have also mentioned that the same-sex education schools here in Jersey have similar results to Hautlieu. Well, if that is the case, then there is surely more evidence, which you so rightly stated yourself, Mr. O'Neill, to say that it is not hindering the academic abilities of the young ladies from Beaulieu and J.C.G. in our Island or the gentlemen such as yourself from De La Salle College or the gentleman from Victoria College to my right. Just to finish off, surely by having the choice of, as you say, we have 4 mixed-gender schools plus Hautlieu with its selective opportunities and the 4 main private secondary colleges and secondary schools here in Jersey. Surely by having that variation between all of the types of education you can be provided with in Jersey, it is therefore open to choice of the individual or the individual's parents as to how they wish to be educated and how that education for them is going to be beneficial to the individuals themselves; I am sure most of the Chamber will agree with me education is very much an individual thing rather than an aspect of your life which can be uniform to the whole populous. Thank you. [Approbation]

4.1.4 Miss Coxshall:

Mr. O'Neill, you were saying that at same-sex schools students are more likely to fit stereotypes, but particularly girls, but there have been studies to show that at an all-girls school a female student is 2 and half times more likely to do physics, which I think we can all agree is a male-dominated subject. So I feel that that argument missed the point.

4.1.5 Mr. Le Blancq:

In a similar note to Miss Fearn, I would like to apologise if I come across as aggressive during the following comments, which are mentioned in your report as coming from the American Council of CoEducational Schooling. I would like to question whether the American Council of CoEducational Schooling is really an applicable source to use when deciding on educational policy in a British school or in Jersey. I would also like to question just how aware you are of the amounts of cohesion that we have between Victoria College, J.C.G. and Beaulieu; that is just one example. There are several people here, over there and over there, that I have been in classes with, I am in classes with. I would ask you to consider whether taking away the choice from parents and students of whether to go into a same-sex school or a mixed-sex school is really going to help anyone in the long term.

4.1.6 Miss Jones:

I strongly agree with Miss Fearn. In response to your previous statement about girls' schools often being selective and thus having better results than only mixed schools, have you considered the example of Hautlieu and J.C.G.? Both are selective schools requiring the exact same A level results of at least 5 subjects with a minimum of a grade C to enter into sixth form and yet J.C.G. has scored significantly higher in A level and G.C.S.E. results in the last year.

4.1.7 Mr. De La Cour:

I think it is important to note a few things such as the co-educational school being disproving to your statement. [**Laughter**] Furthermore to clear up things in your secondary speech such as an academic attainment is less important than a better society. I personally believe that further academic

attainment, which is promoted through education of tolerance, leads to a better society and it is something that should be appreciated and enhanced. **[Approbation]**

4.1.8 Miss Pallent:

Could everybody please have the De La Salle proposition in front of them, the opening page? I would like to read you an excerpt from an article from the *Daily Telegraph* titled “Are single-sex or mixed schools the way forward?” written by Richard Cairns and Helen Fraser: “Recent research published in the American Journal of Science suggests that women who have attended single-sex schools were ‘compromised in the workplace as their ability to network and co-operate with men was inhibited’.” The only word you added in that paragraph was “of” and that is arguably a grammatical correction. If you were to look through the entire ... really your proposition, the first 5 paragraphs can all be found either directly quoted from this article or very closely following. Paragraph 6 can be found on the *New York Times* website in an article titled “Single-sex schooling is assailed in report” written by Tamar Lewin. If you were to go past the table downwards, there is in fact not a single word written by De la Salle; it is in fact from the Jersey States websites, which the only bit they did omit was the paragraph which explained what “Value Added” means and the bits of a table which clearly states that Grainville, Haute Vallee and Le Rocquier and Les Quennevais all score significantly less than Hautlieu, J.C.G. and Victoria College with Value Added scores of 978, 933, 962 and 952 respectively. As well as these, if anyone else has noticed that the second column in the table is repeated twice, that is because there is another column of the table which was conveniently omitted, which goes about the upper and lower bounds in which it shows that Hautlieu and Victoria College have equal upper bounds of 1,030. And to really illustrate this point further I have highlighted every word that De la Salle did not write **[Laughter]**, just to put it in context, gave a grand total of 46 words out of their 374 word proposition or 12 per cent. I do not know whether you were ironically trying to show the fact that you are incapable of writing your own proposition or the fact you are unaware of the laws of plagiarism, to show that you need the coeducational school to be able to form a debate properly; however, that argument as well as your whole proposition in general is frankly garbage. **[Approbation]**

The Bailiff:

I am not sure if “garbage” is a good parliamentary term. It is all right, is it? Garbage is all right. Mr. De Louche?

4.1.9 Mr. De Louche:

On a lighter night **[Laughter]**, thank you, Mr. O'Neill, for your interesting opinions. I would like to start with a study conducted by Ofsted in 2015, who concluded that the educational needs of both females and males were massively different. As far as I can see schools for decades have grouped people according to ability to try and make sure the learning needs and learning aims are met, so I do not see why gender should not follow these conditions. With regard to Mr. O'Neill's proposition where you state and I quote: “Sex segregation increases gender stereotyping”, I would disagree, being that girls are more likely to not conform to stereotypes without the pressure of the opposing sex on them. This was ably highlighted by Miss Coxshall here, who said that females in a non-mixed school are 2 and a half times more likely to take physics or male-dominated subjects, or traditionally male-dominated subjects when compared to their mixed counterparts. To finish, I think that the claims, that myself and my colleagues sitting around me, of us being socially impaired, are completely unfounded and that as long as there is a choice between mixed and single-sex schools in this Island the proposition to blanket the educational system is therefore not viable. **[Approbation]**

4.1.10 Miss Enget:

I strongly agree with the arguments already put forward by now the majority of the Chamber. Often on this topic it is argued that girls help to improve the academic success of the boys, but looking at the large gap between Victoria and Hautlieu’s G.C.S.E. results I think it is fair to say that a same-sex school also happens to be beneficial for males, in contrast to what Mr. Fitzgerald previously said. It

is not necessary to try and create a crossover school that could easily create a plummeting grade on both sides. I find it unsurprising that different genders learn most effectively by using different methods and that our brains develop at different paces. Therefore, in order to maximise the effectiveness of time in the classroom it makes sense for teachers to present information in ways which are favoured by the gender being taught, and having single-sex schools means that consequently more people benefit from the specialised teaching available to them, similar to Mr. De Louche's point. Furthermore, scientific studies have provided evidence to show that boys often are a few years behind girls academically until it evens outs around the time we go to university. Therefore, the solution that makes most sense is in fact to keep the schools as single-sex schools where one gender will not hinder the other's progress, then at university if any concerns still remain about difficulties mixing with the opposite gender these can be evened out at this point where learning together will not impact on the other's success as they are beyond an age of being easily distracted by the opposite gender. **[Approbation]**

4.1.11 Mr. Davis:

Following on from what I finished on before, which is about choice, Jersey prides itself in being an Island which is highly tolerant, something which our own Bailiff and former Lieutenant Governor, Sir John McColl, picked up on last year's Liberation speech. Surely by having this mix within our community, because we must ...

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Sorry, Mr. Davis, I think you have already spoken in this debate, have you not?

Mr. Davis:

I have, Sir.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Sorry, I will have to cut you short there. The final speaker before I ask for summing up will be Miss Lawson.

4.1.12 Miss Lawson:

I would like to agree with you but most of the points have been pointed out in the Chamber already. However, one of your points in your report states that even in independent schools only 10 per cent of boys and 16 per cent of girls are now in single-sex schools. However, in a lot of these schools in England, the mixed schools, they have been splitting their more academic subjects up into gender groups, even though they are at mixed schools, because children are underachieving in maths, English and science when they learn together; boys, especially in English, and girls in maths and science. I just thought that this would be an appropriate thing to add. Thank you. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Thank you. I have no other speakers, so I will ask Mr. O'Neill to sum up, please.

4.1.13 Mr. O'Neill:

Well, first of all, I would like to thank particularly Miss Fearn for her fantastic, what can only be described as extremely well-researched document she relayed to us. Yes. **[Laughter]** I think one of the key points brought up there is with regards to choice, which I think Mr. Davis first brought up, and I think that was something to consider. Our points were based less on personal opinions, just to put that one out there, and more so on the spirit of debate. Thank you, Miss Coxshall, for your points made with regards to the physics choices. Thank you.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Thank you. The debate has now concluded. We will come to the vote. I ask the Greffier to open the voting. Have all Members had the opportunity to vote? I ask the Greffier to close the voting, and I

can announce that the proposition has been lost. There were 40 votes against, 2 votes in favour and 3 abstentions.

POUR: 2

CONTRE: 40

ABSTAIN: 3

Mr Yann Mash

Miss Alice Mackereth

Mr Peter Emmanuel

Mr Laurie Corbel

Miss Lucy Pallen

Mr George Falla

Miss Jasmine Box

Mr Owen Davies

Mr Thomas De La Cour

Mr Charlie Flynn

Miss Chloe Coxshall

Miss Alison Green

Miss Elisha Hart

Miss Robyn McGowan

Mr Liam Fitzgerald

Mr Fraser O'Neill

Mr Fergus Power

Miss Lucy De la Cour

Miss Jessica Garton

Miss Cerys Fearn

Mr Huw Davies

Mr Oscar Barette

Mr Daniel Hayden

Mr Atticus Mawby

Mr Giles Wankling

Miss Eleanor Radcliffe

Miss Ellen Dickenson

Miss Molly Sue Deans

Mr Tiago Ventura

Mr Luke Davis
Miss Lauren McMurray
Mr Ben Mariscal
Miss Tirion Jones
Miss Marianne Enget
Mr Ryan Merhet
Mr J-P Le Miere
Mr Nathan Le Blancq
Mr Viraj Kotedia
Mr Calvin De Louche
Miss Isobel Lawson
Miss Delphinie McCarthy
Miss Erin McEnery
Miss Amy Wallsworth
Mr Matthew Bridge
Miss Sally Ammar

[16:00]

5. That Jersey must accommodate and settle at least 400 Syrian refugees

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

The next item of public business is in the name of the Jersey College for Girls, and I ask the Greffier to read the proposition.

The Greffier of the States:

The Assembly is asked whether it is of opinion that Jersey must accommodate and settle at least 400 Syrian refugees.

5.1 Miss Box:

By upholding justice and the rule of law, and by striding for societies that are fair and offer opportunities for all, we overcome division and find reconciliation so that the benefits of progress and prosperity may be multiplied and shared. This was a part of the message of hope and unity shared by the Queen to all of the Commonwealth countries 7 days ago. The endemic indifference shown to families forced to leave their home and their loved ones has been heart-breaking. Hence we will not remain bystanders and would hope to be seen as ambassadors of our Majesty's message and representative of the universal desire for global unity and peace. For many reasons such as this, we believe that Jersey should accommodate and settle 400 refugees across a 5-year period. In response to the refugee crisis, Oxfam conducted an investigation into exactly how many people each country

should be looking to take, what has come to be known as a fair share. The U.K. has taken a mere 8 per cent of their fair share while Canada has gone above and beyond with an intake of 209 per cent. Taking into account factors such as our wealth and size, our fair share is 40 people or approximately 8 families. Forty people is not a huge ask by any stretch of the imagination, and I bet you can guess how much of our fair share we have taken: zero per cent, not a single person. Although there were indeed talks of taking in 3 refugee families by the States, these quickly fell by the wayside. With places such as Canada, although obviously considerably larger than us in size, taking in well over their fair share, there is in fact no reason why we should not only follow in these footsteps but instead create our own paving for building a stronger and brighter future for the 400 lives we will be impacting. There are 60 million refugees in the world seeking shelter from the harsh reality they have endured for so long. If the tables are turned and our own Island, ourselves, our family and our friends were in the unfortunate position of needing somewhere safe to be, I would hope that another country would be willing to help the 100,000 of us as we should help the refugees. I would hope that people would not look at us when we are at our most vulnerable and label us as the refugees are so often unfairly labelled with stigmas attached to them. What stereotypes spring to mind when you think of a refugee? Someone uneducated, someone who cannot be trusted, someone who will take advantage of what we are so generously offering them? Refugees should not be viewed through this tarnished and unjustly tainted perspective. For instance, are you aware that many refugees and migrants start their own businesses and create jobs? Indeed, one in 7 U.K. companies were set up by migrants. Successful refugee businessmen in Britain include the co-founder of Marks & Spencers, Michael Marks. We need only cast our eyes no further than across the Atlantic to see the hypocrisy and shameful treatment of outsiders. We do not want to be people who follow blindly in the shadow of ignorance and heartlessness. Instead, we should stand with open arms to welcome the people into our Island and be proud for taking such a measure. Finally, it is of the utmost importance that we recognise the strength of connection we share with these refugees who we seem to have so desperately attempted to make distant. In one way or another, we are all refugees. In fact, I would like to invite everyone in the States to please stand up. Now, please remain standing if you were born in Jersey. Remain standing yet again if both your parents were born in Jersey. Thank you. The rest of you, and although notably very few, may now be seated. This proves that we cannot even trace back more than a few generations of our own families without there being signs of immigration. We are all immigrants. Why should we not be the first generation to allow Syrian refugees into our country, given that they were in the same position that our own families were once in? It is essential to remember that we are all vulnerable to disaster. At any given moment, our lives could potentially turn upside down and leave us desperately in need of help. I think it is easy to believe, from a position of safety, that if we lost such security somebody would help us, but it is wrong to expect from others what we ourselves are failing to provide. It would take only a loss of a job or a home to realise that we are not so far away from those asking for our help. Indeed, we share a great deal in common with refugees. Who among us would not flee if faced with war and persecution? Who among us would not try to start a new life in a safe country which provides the opportunity to flourish? Our common humanity both obliges us to make room for refugees and gives us means with which to understand them. These people are sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, doctors, dancers, humans. In fact, the only difference between us and them is that we were born here and they were born there. Thank you.

[Approbation]

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Is the proposition seconded? **[Seconded]** Thank you. The proposition is proposed and seconded. Does anyone wish to speak? Mr. Morby.

5.1.1 Mr. Morby:

I would like to argue not so much from an ethical standpoint as a practical and a logistical standpoint. The average Syrian earns just over a-twelfth of the average Jersey resident, and being refugees it is likely they would be almost incapable of providing for themselves adequate accommodation and

nourishment. According to the States of Jersey, in 2016, the average 2-bedroom flat cost £349,000. If we were to house 400 individuals, 2 per bedroom, this would cost £31,160,000, by no means a small cost to bear. Furthermore, if we were to feed our refugee guests nothing but potatoes, for a day, to meet their calorie needs, we would have to spend £679, and eating only potatoes they would surely die. [Laughter] I really have no idea what the true cost would be, but whatever it would be, it would not be small. [Approbation]

5.1.2 Mr. Flynn:

Just following on from Mr. Morby's point, I would like to say, on behalf of everyone at Victoria College, our hearts go out to the refugees as much as anyone else. Perhaps that is not ultimately clear from what Mr. Morby said, but we do care. But ultimately we would like to argue that Jersey is not the best place for refugees to settle. First of all, the cost of living in Jersey is higher than in the U.K. and indeed in most of Europe, which would obviously provide a lot of issues for refugees. Secondly, housing is another issue in Jersey, and ultimately it will be extremely difficult for refugees, if they came to the Island, to get on the housing ladder, and that is an issue. [Laughter] Probably most importantly, though, is integration within the Jersey community. Jersey has, I believe, one mosque. Now, apart from that, schooling ... the obvious language barrier would be a huge, huge problem for any Syrian refugee children who would undoubtedly miss out on education. Therefore it would perhaps be better that these refugees instead be settled somewhere else, perhaps with an already existing migrant community rather than settle in Jersey where ultimately they may suffer more than if they were settled somewhere else in Europe. [Approbation]

5.1.3 Mr. De La Cour:

I think it is important to note, following on from my other team member's responses, as the Chief Minister said, there are very good reasons why not even 40 refugees have been accepted into the Island due to the housing burden that that would bring and which would further increase the housing burden on residents already living here, as prices would further rise as demand went up. So for J.C.G. to bring up that there should be 400 refugees, 10 times the original amount debated by the States, seems a little bit of an extreme case.

5.1.4 Miss Green:

In your report, you kept fluctuating between 400 refugees stated in your paper report and 40 which was said by Miss Box. Could you clarify as to what is your actual number, and if a group of you, which is smaller than the States Chamber, cannot decide how many refugees should come, do you really think it is going to be an easy task getting 400 refugees in the Island when there are even more people to make a decision? Along with that, the Island residential status thing would exclude a lot of Syrian refugees coming for jobs in this Island. If you are going to say that the only way to do that would be to bypass that for Syrian refugees, then a lot of migrants to the country could consider that an unfair implication and a benefit. Also, you might have people use the Island as a gateway to the U.K., to get in there where they can finally earn lower wages, and that might create a Calais-style camp in St. Malo and we might see the Island being used as some sort of secondary stop into the U.K. citizenship.

5.1.5 Miss Radcliffe:

To follow Mr. Flynn's point, while I do understand the need to accommodate the Syrian refugees or just refugees in general, Jersey is already struggling to accommodate the already existing migrant community, and there is evidence to suggest families who have moved here from Portugal or Poland, there are families of 5 living in one bedroom by themselves. If we can barely accommodate them, it is going to be difficult to accommodate even more refugees. Thank you.

5.1.6 Miss De La Cour:

As a response to Mr. Morby, I would just like to remind him that these are actual people, not statistics and not in fact potatoes, and as interesting as it was to listen about how many potatoes they would

need to keep us going, these, like I said, are people and they have been through some really hard times and they have been kicked out of their homes, which they have no choice over because they were going to die or they were going to live. They decided to live and they have relied on people's kindness and generosity to get them this far and they want a home, and I think it is not too much to just listen to them and even just provide the minimum of 40 people. They are desperate. It is completely different. If you were in that situation, I am sure you would rely on somebody's generosity.

5.1.7 Mr. O'Neill:

I was just wondering why specifically Syrian refugees. Obviously there is a large crisis there, but that is in the whole geopolitical area, obviously not just Syria. So why just Syria and how do you identify just Syrian refugees?

5.1.8 Mr. Ventura:

First of all, I would like to say that was a beautiful speech by Miss Box. It was very good, in fact. Secondly, I think, in this matter, we have to be very ethical and we cannot just look in the point of view of statistics. Although they are important, I do not feel as we should look at this as some numbers or: "Are we going to be able to do it?" because these are real people with real families, real kids. They are running away from their own country, their own homes, because they were made to. They did not choose that. For example, in my case, I choose to come to Jersey. They did not. They are made to leave their own countries. So I think, in the terms of the language barriers and what we would need, they would have no problem because they just want to be welcomed somewhere. They do not care where it is; they do not care what they have to go through. They just want a place they can call home. They just want somewhere to be. They just want somewhere to feel safe. That is one of the things people, I think they should realise, because we as a community, we think we are fine and we are safe, but one day that might change. That changed for them and it was a radical, radical change. They suffered a lot, and I just think we should give them, even if it is not 400, even if it is 40, even if it is 10 ... any would help because we are helping someone, and I think that is one of the most important things as a human being we should do, which is help others and not focus so much on ... [Approbation]

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

We are going to run into time problem. I am delighted that so many people want to speak, are speaking so well and speaking at length. However, we have still got another 3 propositions after this debate, and I would like to finish not too long after 5.00 p.m. So what I am going to do now is to call on Miss Fearn, the seconder, and then ask the proposer to sum up so that we can give all the propositions a reasonable amount of time for discussion. I hope you will approve of that decision. So, Miss Fearn.

5.1.9 Miss Fearn:

In response to Miss Flynn and Mr. Morby and Miss Green and Miss Radcliffe over concerns about housing, Andium Homes is building over 1,000 new homes before the end of 2020. So if they accelerate current plans and build more homes before the end of 2020, then we will easily be able to accommodate 400 extra people and it really is not that much more of a strain on the already existing infrastructure. The point that Mr. Flynn raised about the mosque, should we not be increasing diversity by encouraging more people to come to the Island instead of creating this discrimination against people? I strongly, strongly agree with Mr. Ventura, and I thought that your speech was very emotional and surely that just proves the point that we should be increasing diversity instead of discriminating against it. Thank you. [Approbation]

5.1.10 Miss Pallent:

Firstly I want to agree, as well as Miss Fearn, that, Mr. Ventura, your speech was incredible, but also I just want to clarify some logistical issues that obviously we did not explain because we do not want

to bore you, but it is fine; we will now. The plan is that although we are taking 400 Syrian refugees, we use "Syrian" basically just to identify the area of Middle East because there are wars going on all over the world.

[16:15]

That is basically why we use that term. Also, we are not taking them all in at once. We are certainly not going to open up the gates and 400 refugees are going to hop on Condor Ferries. We are going to take over a 5-year period where the first year is purely preparation, where that is time to have extra investment in Andium Homes so they can build more homes quickly and then also an extension into Highlands and St. Brelade's in their English-speaking departments where in fact classes in Highlands at the moment are being cancelled because not enough people are there to take them. Also, as brilliantly pointed out by Beaulieu, there is a major issue language-wise with a lot of people in the Island. So this will benefit us long-term. We are aware that this is not an easy decision and we also realise that we are not taking the easy option. However, it is important to remember that often what is right is also not what is easy, and it is a decision that countries throughout humanity have had to face. Germany had to face it in the 1930s with Nazism. Russians had to face it with Putin. This is our decision now, and I do not know about anybody else in this room, but when my kids talk to me about the refugee crisis that happened in the 2010s, I do not want to tell them about how we were too hard-hearted to take a few extra people. Thank you. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I call on Miss Box to sum up.

5.1.11 Miss Box:

To summarise, I feel that Miss Pallent covered very well the logistics of our plan, while Mr. Ventura did put across beautifully the emotive side of our argument, and I think we managed to answer most of the questions put across to us. I think, Mr. Flynn, in regards to the mosque, J.C.G. seats 900 plus all the parents in a church, one at a time. If we had 400, they could all fit in the mosque. Thank you. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I now ask the Greffier to open the voting, the proposition being that Jersey must accommodate and settle at least 400 Syrian refugees. Has everyone had the opportunity to vote? I will ask the Greffier to close the voting. The proposition has been adopted: 27 votes in favour, 13 against, and 5 abstentions.

POUR: 27

CONTRE: 13

ABSTAIN: 5

Miss Alice Mackereth

Mr Charlie Flynn

Mr Thomas De La Cour

Miss Lucy Pallent

Miss Alison Green

Mr Huw Davies

Miss Jasmine Box

Miss Elisha Hart

Miss Delphinie McCarthy

Mr Yann Mash

Mr Laurie Corbel

Miss Erin McEnery

Miss Chloe Coxshall

Mr Oscar Barette

Mr Matthew Bridge

Miss Robyn McGowan

Mr Daniel Hayden

Mr Liam Fitzgerald	Mr Atticus Mawby
Mr Fraser O'Neill	Mr Giles Wankling
Mr Fergus Power	Miss Molly Sue Deans
Miss Lucy De la Cour	Mr Ryan Merhet
Miss Jessica Garton	Mr J-P Le Miere
Miss Cerys Fearn	Mr George Falla
Miss Eleanor Radcliffe	Mr Owen Davies
Miss Ellen Dickenson	
Mr Tiago Ventura	
Mr Luke Davis	
Miss Lauren McMurray	
Mr Ben Mariscal	
Mr Peter Emmanuel	
Miss Tirion Jones	
Miss Marianne Enget	
Mr Nathan Le Blancq	
Mr Viraj Kotedia	
Mr Calvin De Louche	
Miss Isobel Lawson	
Miss Amy Wallsworth	
Miss Sally Ammar	

6. That Jersey should develop a fair and equitable taxation system for all Jersey residents
The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

The next item is in the name of Hautlieu, and I will ask the Greffier to read the proposition.

The Greffier of the States:

The Assembly is asked whether it is of opinion that Jersey should develop a fair and equitable taxation system for all Jersey residents.

6.1 Miss Hart:

Essentially, the current system used in Jersey is unequal and unethical. Despite being told that the individuals who are classed as high-value residents are contributing to the Island socially and economically, there are so many benefits to be had from higher tax contributions and more funds available for government use, for instance schooling, hospitals, environmental preservation, community projects and law enforcement. When high-value residents pay less tax, society is affected. We are unable to use government funds for a lot of these things and have yet to see the fantastic benefits of having high-value residents on the Island. What are these benefits specifically and how are they improving the lives of Jersey people? The more money you earn in Jersey, the more you contribute through your taxes, unless you earn more than £625,000 a year, in which case you can shirk the 20 per cent tax rate and pay a lower percentage. The system in which everyone pays 20 per cent of their earnings in tax despite their annual earnings results in a strong infrastructure. The money collected is used for important projects like education and development in the hospitals' efficiency and success. Therefore everyone benefits from the tax system and from high-value residents paying an equal percentage to those who do not qualify as high-value residents, for example, the majority of the population. Progressive tax is the system used in the U.K., which means as your income increases, so does your tax. For instance, taxpayers earning between £11,000 and £43,000 have to pay 20 per cent tax, whereas people earning between £43,000 and £150,000 must pay 40 per cent tax. Although this system acquires more income from taxpayers earning more annually, I would suggest that Jersey use a system in which everyone pays the same amount despite their annual income. Currently Jersey uses a regressive tax system, one in which tax rates decrease as your annual income increases. This is an attempt to keep high-value residents on the Island. If you compare the earnings of 2 people, one earning £20,000 a year and one earning £2 million a year, the impact of 20 per cent tax taken from the person earning £20,000, equalling £4,000, is far greater than the impact of someone with £2 million losing £400,000. An alternative to insisting that 1(1)(k) residents, who are high-value residents, pay the same tax rates to non-high-value residents would be to either increase the minimum earnings per annum, minimum earnings being £625,000, or to increase the minimum tax contribution for high-value residents, being £125,000. This would benefit the Island in more ways than one because, when high-value residents pay less tax, society is affected and the people on the Island lose out.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Thank you. Is the proposition seconded? **[Seconded]** Yes. The proposition has been proposed and seconded. Does anyone wish to speak? Miss Fearn.

6.1.1 Miss Fearn:

Currently, the 1(1)(k) regime raises £13.5 million in income tax alone over 123 individual taxpayers. The economic effects are much larger. In 2009, their economic impact was at a minimum of £50 million to £70 million. Considering it took an estimated £21 million of taxpayers' money to build the new police station, theoretically the whole project could have been entirely paid for by the 1(1)(k) residents with £29 million to £49 million still to spare. Moreover, the reduction in the amount of tax paid by these high-value residential status residents is a reflection of their investment and spending in Jersey. They are encouraged to use local wealth advisory and fund management services and they are inclined to invest and spend locally. This approximately equates to the level of tax paid by normal Jersey residents and so they are still paying in equitable amounts of money into this Island's economy. However, if their tax rates were to be put up, this level of investment would likely come to a halt, as many of the residents would be encouraged to move elsewhere to find similar tax benefits. Therefore the £50 million to £70 million figure would decrease dramatically, consequently putting a strain on the economy once more and reducing the amount of money available to schooling, hospitals, environmental preservation, community projects and law enforcement, as pointed out in your report. To conclude, although it has been considered unjust for high-value residential status residents to pay lower tax rates, the huge amount of economic support they provide to the Island surely outweighs any moral inclinations for a fairer society. Thank you.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Mr. Corbel, do you want to ...

Mr. Corbel:

No.

6.1.2 Miss Mackereth:

In addition to Miss Fearn's counterargument, I would like to state fixed level of taxes makes Jersey an attractive relocation for 1(1)(k)s. There are many advantages for 1(1)(k)s entering the Island. They bring masses and masses amounts of taxes which, yes, are less than their fair share. However, they still provide Jersey with more money than the rest of the sectors. They also offer employment to cleaners, builders, lawyers, trustees and accountants, as well as circulate money around the Island. For Jersey to succeed as a financial centre, 1(1)(k)s are essential.

6.1.3 Miss Green:

I would like to also add to the points made by J.C.G. that high-valued residents in Jersey contribute more taxes other than income. You seem to have just looked at income taxes rather than the actual overall amount in tax they are paying. As well, along with this, you also, in your report, talk about 20 per cent across the whole board. If that was to happen, low earners would be more affected than high earners. If you have got a lot of money and take 20 per cent off, you will still have money to spend on your children's schooling, to pay for food. If you have a low income and you take 20 per cent off, you might not be able to afford to pay the bills at the end of the day. **[Approbation]**

6.1.4 Mr. O. Davies:

I would also like to make it quite clear that this would also affect future high-income people coming into the Island. These people could be starting businesses on the Island which would, in the long term, cost jobs on the Island, which form the middle Jersey.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Thank you. Mr. Mash. Okay. Thank you. All right. Does anybody else wish to speak? Mr. Bridge.

6.1.5 Mr. Bridge:

The Withers LLP and Panopticon Policy Review of 1(1)(k) regime in the States of Jersey 2010 highlighted basically the essence of our idea where it quotes the Minister, Senator Philip Ozouf, in 2009, in his first budget speech, as stating that he believed everyone should provide an appropriate contribution. The report essentially was trying to identify opportunities to raise revenue from existing and/or future 1(1)(k)s while maintaining Jersey's competitive position. I think this is incredibly important as we do need to consider the competition from other jurisdictions in attracting high-worth individuals. However, in the Post-Implementation Review of Jersey High Value Residents Regime Applicable since July 2011, which was conducted by the Tax Policy Unit for the Council of Ministers in the States Assembly in December 2016, it was found that since July 2011 the simpler tax regime which is currently used has helped. However, further consultation with the Law Officers' Department and review of the tax law has confirmed that it is now feasible to construct a legal obligation to pay a minimum annual tax charge. As part of the conclusion and recommendations for change, it states that: "We also consider that some changes could be considered further to improve the regime for the future." They recommended that the expected annual minimum income tax contribution increases from £125,000 to £145,000 for the next cohort of high-value residents, i.e. those who relocate in 2018 onwards. They consider that this level of increase is feasible and remains competitive with regard to key competitor jurisdictions. However, it also came to the conclusion that there was reason to recommend the proposed minimum annual tax charge should be uprated occasionally to maintain its real value. They believe that the most feasible option is a 5-year uprating in line with the preceding 5 years' inflation, subject to ensuring that the regime remains internationally competitive. They believe that while ensuring that the real value of tax contribution

is preserved, it is incredibly important to remain competitive compared to other jurisdictions. They also suggested that the high-value residents who come to Jersey from 2018 onwards should be subjected to revalorisation of their minimum annual tax charge but Ministers should retain flexibility, not to uprate the charge when economic and other circumstances dictate.

6.1.6 Mr. Mash:

I consulted with my team and changed my mind. The point with this is the argument against does not take into account the fact that there are 16 other jurisdictions in Europe that have lower taxes than us for their value residents. When people relocate, the majority of the time they are relocating due to other factors such as language and stability and climate and environment, and so when you also look at the entire premise of the debate it does not take into consideration what happens in the wider economy when high value residents move to the Island. Yes, they are paying tax but they are paying (a) a small amount of tax and nobody accurately knows that. Let us say a high value resident comes here and gets cleaners for their homes. Those cleaners are not going to be paying tax because the majority of them are not going to earn enough to earn over that threshold. It is the same for house prices, which is obviously quite an issue for most people around us, is that when more people of high value move into an area they buy higher value property. They create more of a demand for luxury apartments, for mansions, et cetera, which also bolsters up the price of the actual value of the land as well as the value of properties overall. So that is all I just wanted to say.

6.1.7 Mr. Le Blancq:

I would just like to point out that the big money friendly environment that Jersey has on account of these tax laws go a long way to providing the very big financial companies that Jersey attracts to it, to the extent that they make very large parts of our economy. This industry provides thousands of stable and high paying jobs for Island residents.

[16:30]

Many of whom are straight out of secondary education, people like us who in one or 2 years might be looking for jobs, not wanting to go to university and wanting to get straight into those industries and these companies, like Intertrust and Elian, provide those jobs and can provide those jobs and opportunities for us. If we were to change these tax laws we could push those big money people away, push therefore the companies, like Elian and Intertrust, might go with them and the jobs that they provide to Islanders can go with them as well.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Mr. Mash, you have already spoken. If no one else wishes to speak I call upon Miss Hart to sum up.

6.1.8 Miss Hart:

Well I can appreciate the points made by a lot of people in the States today, but I did want to point out the police station was not, in fact, paid for by taxpayers. The funds raised from the police station before like withheld, for instance, drug money, was used to pay for it and 20 per cent is applicable for everyone today. The stats I was using was from the U.K. to show progressive tax, 20 per cent is the same for somebody earning a lower amount today in Jersey as it is for somebody earning a higher amount. But other than that, I still stand by everything else I said and I ... thanks.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Thank you. The proposition is that Jersey should develop a fair and equitable taxation system for all Jersey residents. I ask the Greffier to open the voting. If everyone has had the opportunity of voting I ask the Greffier to close the voting. The proposition has been lost: 12 votes in favour, 25 against and 6 abstentions.

POUR: 12

CONTRE: 25

ABSTAIN: 6

Mr Yann Mash	Miss Alice Mackereth	Miss Chloe Coxshall
Miss Elisha Hart	Miss Lucy Pallen	Miss Lucy De la Cour
Miss Robyn McGowan	Miss Jasmine Box	Miss Eleanor Radcliffe
Mr Fergus Power	Mr Thomas De La Cour	Mr Luke Davis
Mr Giles Wankling	Mr Charlie Flynn	Miss Isobel Lawson
Miss Ellen Dickenson	Miss Alison Green	Miss Erin McEnery
Miss Molly Sue Deans	Mr Liam Fitzgerald	
Mr Tiago Ventura	Mr Fraser O'Neill	
Miss Lauren McMurray	Miss Jessica Garton	
Mr J-P Le Miere	Miss Cerys Fearn	
Mr Matthew Bridge	Mr Huw Davies	
Miss Sally Ammar	Mr Laurie Corbel	
	Mr Oscar Barette	
	Mr Daniel Hayden	
	Mr Atticus Mawby	
	Mr Ben Mariscal	
	Miss Tirion Jones	
	Miss Marianne Enget	
	Mr Ryan Merhet	
	Mr Nathan Le Blancq	
	Mr Viraj Kotedia	
	Mr George Falla	
	Mr Calvin De Louche	
	Mr Owen Davies	
	Miss Amy Wallsworth	

7. That the States should be streamlined

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

We move on to the next item of public business in the name of Victoria College and I ask the Greffier to read the proposition.

The Greffier of the States:

The Assembly is asked whether it is of opinion that the States should be streamlined.

7.1 Mr. De La Cour:

Good afternoon. My name is Tom De La Cour and I am here to represent not only Victoria College but what we believe are the interests of most of the population. The question that we asked the States today is a straightforward one but a question of immense importance. It is a question that promptly resides in the minds of many Islanders today and is one of the utmost significance in light of major new developments on the Island that have exposed the weaknesses in our government. The question is this: does the States need change? Change is a necessity for all governing institutions in order to grow and serve their dependent communities. Change has become an integral part of the modern world where changes in social order, such as the transcendent change of Obama in the United States breaking down the social glass ceiling and becoming the first black President in a country which only 50 years ago was enveloped in the segregation of white and black people. This necessity of change is something that the Chamber has been lacking for too long. The inability to successfully adapt has demonstrated the shortcomings of our government. The following are examples of an overactive, overrated and oversized government. Before the first brick has even been laid the States has spent over £5 million on the future hospital with £60,000 spent on a design champion for the proposed site and a further £2.2 million spent on independent, technical and financial advisers. Could this money have been more efficiently used? The answer is a resounding yes. Decisions such as the choice to abandon the People's Park plot when under pressure from petition obtaining a grand total of less than 1 per cent of the Island's population has added to a bewildered feeling felt by many across the Island. The project has highlighted the necessity for change within the government where politicians can stand proudly against such petitions reflecting only minority views with the support from a mandate of a larger electorate. Furthermore, the good intent of politicians and the development of the Innovation Fund has become a nightmare. It has haunted the Assembly across the news. £1.4 million. £1.4 million of working people's money vanished. £1.4 million that had the potential to affect people's lives in a meaningful and genuine way gone. This is the fruits of the Assembly that frequents this Chamber. This mismanagement of this fund by a senior States Member has further added to the growing, demanding and public voice of change that is calling out for further checks and balances within the government. In the hands of a pragmatic and passionate government with clear focus and drive to the service of our Island a loss of this kind would not be necessary or occur. There is a fundamental flaw within this Assembly. It is the flaw of a government that has been put together by an archaic obligation to include historic representatives such as the Deputies that reside in this Chamber. Currently in the Assembly a Deputy has the same voting rights on all issues as any other Member, be it another Deputy, Constable or Senator. This is the flaw. How can it be right that someone who has only been elected by 277 votes, such as in the case of the second St. Helier District, can have the same voting rights as another Member who acted on an Island mandated election with 14,000 votes? This imbalance seems bizarre in a modern democracy. Surely it would seem reasonable that a Senator entrusted with his vote by thousands of people would have a greater say in the direction of this Government than a Deputy only elected by a couple of hundred. Yet the modern Senators' role created to represent the Island community as a whole has recently been diminished with a reduction in numbers in 2011 from 12 Senators to 8. Would it not be better if the Assembly represented the needs of the Island as one population? The answer is yes. The Government is weighed down by Deputies elected by only the smallest percentage of the population, causing a rise in protest Members; an Island mandated change is kicked into the long grass. Though the Assembly has been burdened by scandals, archaic traditions and overspending we still hope that it is not too

late for change. A change that will be swift and immediate. It was aptly put by the economist, John Maynard Keynes, the difficulty lies not so much in developing new ideas as in escaping from old ones. Thank you. [Approbation]

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Thank you, Mr. De La Cour. Is the proposition seconded? [Seconded]

Mr. Flynn:

Yes, I am going to retain my right to speak, if that is okay.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

The proposition has been proposed and seconded. Does anyone wish to speak?

7.1.1 Mr. Mash:

As pointed out here, it talks about the U.K. representatives and how it is effectively one to 108,477. If we were to adopt a model similar to that there would only be one person governing all of us. It also says that Jersey's political overrepresentation has had the effect of introducing to the Island a bureaucratic and - I am not going to even pronounce that - Government system. The problem with bureaucracies is that they are created by the people who make them. It is not about the amount of people who sit in a Chamber which creates the bureaucracy, it is about the people who are in charge. So let us say for Government and this Chamber it is about the people who are in Government and make and administer departments rather than people who are sitting in this Chamber. When comparing Jersey, Jersey should be more compared to Guernsey, which has 400 members to 64,000 members or, let us say, another small jurisdiction like American Samoa which has 28 members to 51,000 residents. Not just that, when talking about the Deputies, Deputies are more representative of the individual constituencies that they represent. Just to take an example, let us say the Constables. One Constable represents 33,000 people in this Chamber, when the Constable of St. Mary, the smallest Parish represents 1,300. Political representation, in my view, is ... the Deputy model is far more better and the States should not really be streamlined. I mean if Government is wasting money then that is the fault of the Government, not the fault of this Assembly, not a fault of the position. So let us say, the position of Constable or the position of Deputy does not necessarily mean that a Government Minister loses ... or 3 Government Ministers loses about the equivalent of £1 million. So that is what I wanted to say.

7.1.2 Mr. O'Neill:

I just want to say great speech, Mr. De La Cour, and I think I get it. But I was just wondering as to what you propose to replace the inefficient Assembly that we have at the moment, as you say. What do you propose to replace it with?

7.1.3 Mr. Le Blancq:

Although I would like to disagree with Mr. Mash and although I do understand your viewpoint that it is the elected Government that makes the decisions, it is a fact that the Government can do nothing within this Chamber unless they win the vote and that vote is the responsibility of the Deputies. Although you would say that they are a better system than the Senators and the other parties within this Chamber that we have at the moment, I am afraid I am going to have to disagree with you when you say the Government has all the power and the fact that 200 people can elect an individual who is now voting on matters that affect thousands and thousands of us around the Island, this can only lead to a system where we are dealing with individuals who are representing tiny minorities who may have some views that could be very damaging to the rest of the Island.

7.1.4 Mr. Flynn:

Thank you very much to Mr. O'Neill and Mr. Mash for their contributions to our proposal. However I would like to raise one final point that I think illustrates just why the States needs streamlining, and

it is a point that we have already alluded to earlier in this session. In order that I make the point I ask everyone here to reflect on the 2014 Jersey Electoral referendum. This referendum proposed the drastic change to the structure of the States by which Constables would not automatically become Members of the States once elected. This referendum had the potential to change the structure of the States and critically affect the Island and the lives of Islanders in a meaningful way. This vote garnered a total voter turnout of just under 39 percent. 39 per cent. 61 per cent of registered voters were seemingly completely ambivalent. 61 per cent of voters, the majority, were apparently so unphased by their Government that they could not even muster the energy required to tick a box. In the election of the same year, somewhat more encouragingly, 2 of the 12 Parishes had a voter turnout of over 50 per cent. However, not one managed to reach 60 per cent. Perhaps most despairingly of all though, in the recent senatorial by-election the total voter turnout was 19 per cent. 81 per cent of voters had no inclination whatsoever to participate in their Government. From this, it seems that not even half of the people on this Island spare a second thought to the Government that is supposed to be safeguarding their interests. This chronically low turnout is undoubtedly a symptom of a crippling and debilitating case of complete political apathy. Now the causes for such an affliction are numerous, however they can be broken down into 2 main ideas. Either people simply do not care about their Government or they feel that their vote will not have a significant impact on the political system. Where the blame lies for this is a topic that is open for debate. However, we believe that the answer is quite clear. Ultimately, although it pains us to say it, it is the Government that has failed. If a Government is unable to sufficiently enthuse and motivate its constituents to contribute to the political system then it has failed. If a Government is regarded by so many of its people with what can only be described of as contempt to such a degree that they cannot even bring themselves to subscribe to it, then it has failed. If a Government is so marred by its issues and flustered by a lack of clear vision that they can be most often found spoken of through gritted teeth as the butt of an embittered joke then it has failed.

[16:45]

Without a dramatic change this term and the apathetic feeling will become totally widespread and ultimately mean that this historic and proudly democratic institution will fail to achieve the first and the most vital principle of a democratic system, adhering to the will of the people. In light of all this we believe wholeheartedly the first and most pragmatic way to begin to bring about this change and administering a cure is by streamlining this Government and addressing the blatant issues within the very structure of the States that are turning so many people away and preventing us from having a truly strong decisive and representative Government. Now finally, in light of some of the things that we may have said that may appear slightly incendiary, we would like to thank the States sincerely for allowing us to have this opportunity and ultimately all we wanted to do was inflame a debate that would reach the heart of the issues that are preventing Jersey from reaching its limitless potential. Thank you. [Approbation]

7.1.5 Miss Fearn:

Although it will probably be difficult to follow such a passionate speech delivered by Mr. Flynn, I would like to point out that in your report you focus a lot on what you consider to be the poor organisation of the new hospital project. So all you are pointing out is that perhaps we need better people in the States to be carrying out these decisions instead of removing the positions entirely.

7.1.6 Miss Pallent:

I would just like to firstly congratulate Mr. Flynn on his speech, it was incredible. There was just one slight issue where you went on about streamlining the States and you went on about all these problems and it was really inspiring but you did not provide a solution, and that is kind of needed because in the nicest way possible you can talk about streamlining the States all you want but you cannot exactly get the Minister for Health and the Minister for Education to double-up roles. We need every single person that is in the States and, as Miss Fearn pointed out, it is less an issue of the

roles themselves in the system as maybe it is more an issue that the same people get elected every single year and maybe it is because there is not enough competition that voter turnout is so low. Not the fact that the system is archaic. [Approbation]

7.1.7 Mr. Morby:

A brief point. Rather than forcing the Minister for Education and the Minister for Health to double up roles we could of course ditch the Ministers or the non-ministerial Members of the States. There are many Members of the States who do not have a ministerial role who surely we can do without. [Approbation]

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

If no one else wishes to speak I call upon Mr. De La Cour to sum up.

7.1.8 Mr. De La Cour:

Thank you everyone. That was a good debate. I just wanted to answer Mr. O'Neill's question regarding what would sort of replace the Deputies. I think what is important to note is it is not a complete abolition of the Deputies as a role. I think it is more highlighting the need of Senators as the Island's population is only 100,000 where one M.P. (Member of Parliament) represents that many people in the U.K., a large amount of Senators representing the same population would be better than just a few almost representing factions within the society. I would further like to add and respond to the solution that Miss Pallent observed. The solution we do not have. That is because the solution has to be decided by the States. What we are proposing is that such a solution is discussed by the States and there is a meaningful way to go forward. We just want this to be a trigger in a new system of a modern democracy. I would like to finally add that a vote in favour of our proposition is a vote for change, and if you feel tired of what the States has done then I think it is time to vote. [Approbation]

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Very well, that completes the debate. I ask the Greffier to open the voting. All Members have had the opportunity of voting. I ask the Greffier to close the voting. I can announce that the proposition has been adopted: 30 votes in favour, 13 against and 2 abstentions.

POUR: 30

CONTRE: 13

ABSTAIN: 2

Mr Thomas De La Cour

Miss Alice Mackereth

Miss Lucy De la Cour

Mr Charlie Flynn

Miss Lucy Pallent

Miss Sally Ammar

Miss Chloe Coxshall

Miss Jasmine Box

Miss Alison Green

Mr Yann Mash

Miss Elisha Hart

Miss Robyn McGowan

Mr Liam Fitzgerald

Miss Jessica Garton

Mr Fraser O'Neill

Miss Cerys Fearn

Mr Fergus Power

Mr Tiago Ventura

Mr Huw Davies

Mr Luke Davis

Mr Laurie Corbel	Miss Tirion Jones
Mr Oscar Barette	Miss Marianne Enget
Mr Daniel Hayden	Mr Calvin De Louche
Mr Atticus Mawby	Mr Matthew Bridge
Mr Giles Wankling	
Miss Eleanor Radcliffe	
Miss Ellen Dickenson	
Miss Molly Sue Deans	
Miss Lauren McMurray	
Mr Ben Mariscal	
Mr Peter Emmanuel	
Mr Ryan Merhet	
Mr J-P Le Miere	
Mr Nathan Le Blancq	
Mr Viraj Kotedia	
Mr George Falla	
Mr Owen Davies	
Miss Isobel Lawson	
Miss Delphinie McCarthy	
Miss Erin McEnery	
Miss Amy Wallsworth	

I would like to say, Mr. De La Cour, I am really disappointed that you have not got the solution because we in the States have been struggling to find the solution for nearly 20 years and I was hoping that today might be that day we found it. But never mind, we will keep trying.

8. That all Jersey residents must retake all components of their driving test every 20 years, with the exception of those who are required to take advanced driving tests for their jobs.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

We now come to the final item of public business in the name of Beaulieu and I ask the Greffier to read the proposition.

The Greffier of the States:

The Assembly is asked whether it is of opinion that all Jersey residents must retake all components of their driving test every 20 years, with the exception of those who are required to take advanced driving tests for their jobs.

8.1 Miss Green:

Before I start I would just like to say I am filling in for someone who is ill so I plan to read it fully now. We believe that all Jersey residents should have to retake their driving test every 20 years with the exception of those who are required to take an advanced driving test for their job, such as the police. This is in response to the high rate of vehicle crashes in Jersey compared to England despite a lower speed limit. A study by the BBC in 2014 discovered that Jersey had 39 per cent more motor accidents than the U.K. with further studies that 90 per cent of car crashes are caused by driver error. With increases in the number of cars on the Island we need to ensure that people are using the roads safely and within the law. Therefore to help save lives and reduce fatalities we need to believe that people should have to retake their driving test and check that their technique is up to par for safety measures and that their reaction times are acceptable. A retake of the theoretical component of the test would make sure drivers are up to date on changes in traffic laws as when many adults took their test they did not have a written question page to sit. It seems unfair that we should be held to account to a higher standard than them to drive on the same roads. Andy Bisson, head of driving trainer for the States of Jersey said that to do anything that improves safety on the roads has to be important. It is known and a recognised fact that reaction times decrease with age. It is also acknowledged that the repetition of cause of action over a period of time cause bad habits. Therefore this proposition provides a quality assurance check as to people's ability to cope with driving in an older age. Retaking the practical component will check that the driver's technique is adequate, including proper observation at junctions and checking their mirrors more often. Many adults will admit they do not often do this correctly, some will even joke about not remembering things they took on their driving test. This can endanger the lives of those around us causing death in serious cases. But it is not a joking issue to laugh about the fact that you cannot remember what to do at a junction. It is quite a serious thing that someone could lose their life over. This proposition would also tackle the problem of elderly drivers who sometimes are unfit to be on the road. However, the reason we have chosen not only to retest elderly drivers, is because they are not the sole cause of accidents. From statistics and research 41 to 50 year-olds in this age bracket have the highest number of accidents than others on the road. It seems unfair that younger drivers have to pay such high car insurance when they have taken a test to higher safety standards than those, and are not the ones causing the accident. They have proven that they are safe on the roads more recently than those in the 50-plus bracket. One benefit is that the new hazard protection component will be tested on older road users. This measures their reaction times and, as shown in a study of 2014, the reaction time starts to increase at around the age of 25. Another thing to consider is the rise in people taking their test there will be more money from driving examinations and more employment opportunities within the Island. It would also mean that the test spots are lower for everyone. The scheme will not only be beneficial on the life or death levels but will also help with individuals taking the test to iron out any bad habits they have that will be detrimental towards their own engine and petrol usage, such as riding the clutch and braking too hard. Retesting drivers will teach them that driving is a continuous learning process and that skills constantly need to be re-examined or would change. Many drivers are over-confident and do not focus on driving and driving usually in an autopilot mode without thinking of what to do or how to adapt. So if drivers are more aware that they need to remember their skills and remember their theory, they will make more of an effort to concentrate and use the correct techniques and understand what to do in an emergency situation. We understand that these retests will not prevent every vehicle accident but surely if just one life is saved it is worth it. Many of us here are driving and/or learning to drive and I am sure we will have moments where some of us think that someone else's driving is poor or unsafe. We therefore need to think that this is not necessarily because the person who is a bad driver but because they have forgotten certain rules of the road and need to be

re-examined. Retaking the driving test will also help the tourism industry as if we, as an Island, can say that we have the safest roads in the U.K., would that not make tourists feel more confident to come to the Island with their families as they feel they would not have to worry about unsafe driving, damaging their car or a hire car. This could encourage the tourism industry to drive in Jersey and would add benefits to our economy. At the end of the day what is more important to you, your pride or the lives of someone else?

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):
Is the proposition seconded? **[Seconded]**

Miss Coxshall:
I second Miss Green, but I reserve my right to speak.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):
Thank you very much. The proposition is proposed and seconded. Does anyone wish to speak on the proposition?

8.1.1 Mr. Fitzgerald:
I know Miss Pallent might be a bit upset with me for having the audacity to criticise someone else's proposition in their report but ... unfortunately I do not have any highlighters, so sorry about that. You say in your report that Australia, Grace Louie, an instructor with First Class Driving School tested 3 drivers. That is not a huge amount. It is only 3 people and that cannot really be used as an example on a national level. To make the assumption that they did not know the road rules and were quite aggressive on the road is again quite a large assumption to make based on the case study of 3 drivers. Thank you.

8.1.2 Mr. Mariscal:
Thanks to Beaulieu for their speech. They do make some good points but if, as you say, you retest your driving every 20 years, for instance, say, if you took it at 17 and pass it that means that you would have to redo it at age 37, 57 and then 77. Take, for example, your teachers, most of them will be 37 or around that. Most of them will probably say that they are fairly competent drivers, and as for new drivers, they will be nervous getting used to the road. As their experience grows surely they will grow in confidence with the routes around Jersey and will become more competent. At ages 57, again, while problems may start to show it will most likely not occur and 77, that is when most of the problems will probably occur and by this point most drivers will probably no longer be driving on a consistent level when they get to that age.

8.1.3 Miss Enget:
The proposition that we should have to be retested in order to maintain our driving licence is a highly inconvenient and unnecessary measure. Statistics show that between the ages of 30 and 40 people are at the stage when they are least likely to have an accident. Most people generally take their driving test at the age of 17 and in 20 years' time would fall into this bracket of being their safest years of driving and consequently it seems rather unnecessary that people should be retested at this point in their lives. Instead a much more reasonable proposition that we suggest that people over the age of 70 should be retested as this is when the risk of accidents starts to rapidly increase and therefore it makes sense to introduce proportions because they start to become more relevant at this age as opposed to every 20 years. Thank you.

8.1.4 Mr. Corbel:
I respect that you have the statistics and I do not but my grandmother, who is 77 years old, has driven for 60 years and has not once ever had an on-road accident. Thank you. **[Approbation]**

8.1.5 Mr. O'Neill:

I would like to first of all say well done to Miss Green giving a speech she had not read before. I cannot imagine it is easy. However, my query would be with regard to those who take advanced driving test, why would they not have to be tested. I know surely they should be tested more often. Maybe just my reasoning there but it seems a bit of a flaw.

8.1.6 Miss Box:

I would like to say that I do not think the sole cause of accidents is that people's skills necessarily deteriorate. I think it is a result of technology, people are using their phones, but obviously retaking an exam they might use their phones outside of the exam but when they are in front of an instructor they are going to sit there and they are going to drive perfectly.

[17:00]

As soon as they get back into their car they will pick up their phone again and I do not think there is much you can do to stop that.

8.1.7 Mr. Emmanuel:

That was a very convincing speech and it has completely changed my opinion from when I first read it. There was just one point, and I hate to be picky, but talking about autopilot mode and how people go into that. I think that shows people have the safety ingrained and if they are under a certain age where the tests have become more stringent then surely that is a good thing that they go into this mode and they think of safety first. I do not understand why that is part of your debate and why you are arguing that people should be tested more often if they have ingrained this mentality of being a safe driver. Thank you.

8.1.8 Mr. Morby:

I should like to point out that younger drivers are more commonly involved in crashes than older ones. Those to quote from your speech, more up to date are the most likely to crash their cars hence I fail to understand what benefit this additional inconvenience will provide.

8.1.9 Mr. Le Blancq:

I would like to first congratulate Miss Green on an excellent proposition and firstly say that I tend to agree with some of the things they have said, however I feel that questions have to be raised regarding exactly how these tests would be carried out. Would people be called up at random times in a similar manner to the way people are called to jury duty? Will they take both tests at once: practical and theory? Most importantly, what will happen if, as your report seems to predict, many hundreds, if not thousands, of Islanders fail their driving tests simultaneously and have their licences taken away? Getting to jobs, going out, it would all become a bit chaotic. **[Approbation]**

8.1.10 Miss McEnergy:

In regards to J.C.G's point about ... I think you said 77-plus would have to retake. Surely that could be classed as discrimination and age discrimination, which is why we made the point of making it every 20 years because then it would be more generalised and it would be less discriminative against the elderly.

8.1.11 Mr. Ventura:

Again, putting on the point of Miss Box, she is right when she says perhaps all the accidents are not due to just the drivers not having the ability to drive. It is probably most of the time the stupid decisions that people make of having their phones or perhaps drinking too much. Going with the point that Mr. Le Blancq said, it is true, how would they even do that because people have been driving all their lives, if you just tell them now that you need to retake 3 tests because you have been driving for 6 years they will not probably take that easily and they will probably accept it. Also, if you get off Island and if you drive for another 20 years, if you come back would you have to retake

it again? It is just a lot of variables to consider and again some of the points they make are very good in the sense that perhaps at a certain age you might ... you should be tested but again that is very bad. That depends on the type of person you are and of course with the age you are going to have you are going to have more used to the road and you are going to become a better driver with the years, and I do not think you would become a worst in that point. Thank you.

8.1.12 Mr. Bridge:

I was just wondering whether in a world of technological development do the Members have provision for self-driving or technology-aided vehicles.

8.1.13 Miss Lawson:

Just on Mr. Emmanuel's point, on the autopilot, people going into autopilot when they are driving; just because they do go into an autopilot does not mean it is a safe autopilot, especially referring to Miss Box's proposal that if you can automatically drive with your phone, like you are saying, it is not safe. But also just going back to the adults and your grandmother, I am sure she is a brilliant driver but therefore if she is a brilliant driver then why would she be against retaking her driving test as she would be confident in her abilities and you would pass. So I think that is a thing people who are already driving need to take into account. If you are so against it is it because you are questioning your abilities in the driving seat?

8.1.14 Mr. Davis:

I would just like to raise the point that I disagree with Beaulieu and do not feel it is appropriate to have drivers retested at increments of 20 years. Whilst obviously we must do our best to improve road safety and responsible driving, it must also be considered not to make too drastic a change to the system, which I feel your proposition is. Ultimately those who choose to drive irresponsibly and under legal terms will do so regardless of being forced to retake their driver's test within those 20 years. The same as young drivers are going to drive irresponsibly, one or 2 years or even months after their driving test, as is common in various cases, surely we must focus more on the education of the public, education of road safety and the rules of the road as simple reminders rather than forcing people to retake the process completely over again. Thank you.

8.1.15 Miss Garton:

I would just like to respond to Miss McEnergy's proposal. I would just like to say that it is a fact that when you grow older your senses efficiency decreases but I would also like to say that would you rather be killed or a family member be killed by someone ... an elderly person because you are afraid of age discrimination? I think that someone's life is more important than being afraid to discriminate someone unfortunately. Thank you.

8.1.16 Mr. Wankling:

Backing up Miss Lawson's point, I think that it is not really that much of an inconvenience to retake your test every 20 years because it is quite a long period of time and I think that it is certainly worth it if it could save lives and help improve road safety in general.

8.1.17 Mr. O. Davies:

I feel that in terms of just the theory test, if a new driver is required to know this crucial information I do not see why it should be just forgotten over time and not been seen as an issue.

8.1.18 Miss Pallent:

Firstly, I would just like to back up Miss Garton's point about age discrimination. If we are so willing to say that an elderly person must retake their test: "Oh no, that is wrong, that is age discrimination", surely you could then argue on the same argument that: "You cannot drive until your 17." "Oh, why not?" "Oh no, it is because you are too young." Is that not age discrimination as well just on the other end of a scale? I think the issue so much as taking the driving test is not the fact that people

are not able to take it, it is just logically it will be an absolute nightmare if you suddenly had tens of thousands of people in Jersey all suddenly needing to retake their driving test. Also driving tests, you have to pay for them. People should not have to pay extra money every 20 years because of the law that says they have to redo their driving test; I am just saying. Thank you. [Approbation]

8.1.19 Mr. Barette:

I question how these tests will affect the young drivers taking their test for the first time as I know as a driver the waiting list becomes quite long and I wonder how that would logically work with drivers taking their test every 20 years. [Approbation]

8.1.20 Miss Dickenson:

I think that with increased people taking their driving test more money would be going into the training of drivers and so hopefully it would mean driving tests and driving training was cheaper for everyone then. Surely a lot of people would appreciate that in this Chamber, people learning to drive know it is expensive. So hopefully it would be way cheaper for everyone and then less of an inconvenience.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

If no one else wishes to speak I call upon Miss Green to sum up. Sorry, Miss Coxshall.

Miss Coxshall:

Sorry, can I second it?

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Yes, okay. Only just. Only just got in.

8.1.21 Miss Coxshall:

Firstly, just to answer Mr. O'Neill, that advanced drivers do already retake their tests. Both my parents have recently had to retake their advanced driving every so often. It has got different elements in it to the normal driving test. Driving is something that has probably the most laws and regulations on the Island, however many of these are strict regulations but they do not carry through by drivers in later life. Medical studies have proven that over the age of 60 reaction times have increased from 320 to 440 milliseconds. While this is only one second, within this time a car can travel up to 18 metres, which can be the difference from hitting someone or not, therefore to ensure that people's reaction times are up to standard I believe that retesting is beneficial in preventing deaths and accidents on the Jersey roads. Mr. Philip Blake, the road safety officer for Jersey, recently said that: "Although mandatory retesting would probably be a very uncomfortable experience for drivers there is little doubt that it would focus minds and probably cause many drivers to take some lessons to hone their skills before they retest." If the outcome turned out to be a safer environment that leads to fewer or perhaps no fatalities and a significant reduction in injuries generally this has to be a good thing from both an emotional and financial perspective for the Island. There are always going to be arguments against any statement as we always have different opinions based on what we are taught and what we have experienced. For many drivers safety is a key element in their driving experience. These drivers operate their vehicles to high standards and would never think of not indicating or keeping their lights on while in a residential area. This proposal should not be seen as criticism of their driving, rather as an opportunity for those who are over-confident and have bad habits to the change or to be removed from the roads where they are a threat to others, particularly children who do not know the rules of the road. Surely with 2 industry professionals who support the benefits of our argument and many statistics showing that with age driving standards decrease anything that supports prevention to accidents on Jersey roads is necessary and worth doing. We understand that 20 years is a long time. We have chosen that figure to make the cost of retaking a test minimal and also to reduce public backlash. So we are asking you for one day every 20 years of your life to make sure that you do not end someone else's.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I now call on Miss Green to respond.

8.1.22 Miss Green:

In response to some of the points made by us the statistics we got were the most up to date ones we could find. You might have different statistics that contradict that from a different source but the source we had did say that the most accidents occurred in the 41 to 50 year-old age group. We are asking for one day every 20 years. It is not a big significance and with more people taking the test the cost will reduce. This is not going to happen overnight, like tomorrow we are not going to say everyone has to retake their driving test. It will be a slow introductory process. We might spend a couple of years hiring more instructors, training them, making sure that the Jersey actual system can cope with having more of these tests introduced. It will save some people's lives. If we can stop bad habits on the road we will save people's lives and that is what we should be doing. It should not be about saying: "Oh, but she took it 40 years ago, that means that she should be okay." It is about saving people's lives on the road. If you kill someone you might go to jail for life and nobody would want that. We need to think about how we can prevent deaths and accidents on Jersey roads and this is one solution we are providing.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Thank you. We are now ready to go to the vote. I ask the Greffier to open the voting. Everyone has had the opportunity of voting, I ask the Greffier to close the voting. I can announce that the proposition has been lost: 17 votes in favour, 22 against and 6 abstentions

POUR: 17

CONTRE: 22

ABSTAIN: 6

Mr Yann Mash	Miss Alice Mackereth	Mr Thomas De La Cour
Mr Charlie Flynn	Miss Lucy Pallent	Miss Jessica Garton
Miss Alison Green	Miss Jasmine Box	Mr Peter Emmanuel
Mr Liam Fitzgerald	Miss Chloe Coxshall	Miss Marianne Enget
Mr Fraser O'Neill	Miss Elisha Hart	Mr Ryan Merhet
Mr Daniel Hayden	Miss Robyn McGowan	Mr J-P Le Miere
Mr Giles Wankling	Mr Fergus Power	
Miss Eleanor Radcliffe	Miss Lucy De la Cour	
Miss Ellen Dickenson	Miss Cerys Fearn	
Miss Molly Sue Deans	Mr Huw Davies	
Mr Ben Mariscal	Mr Laurie Corbel	
Mr Owen Davies	Mr Oscar Barette	
Miss Isobel Lawson	Mr Atticus Mawby	
Miss Delphinie McCarthy	Mr Tiago Ventura	

Miss Erin McEnery	Mr Luke Davis
Miss Amy Wallsworth	Miss Lauren McMurray
Mr Matthew Bridge	Miss Tirion Jones
	Mr Nathan Le Blancq
	Mr Viraj Kotedia
	Mr George Falla
	Mr Calvin De Louche
	Miss Sally Ammar

That completes our business but before we adjourn can I just say a couple of words of thanks. Firstly, I did not mention, and I should have done this morning, thanks to the Bailiff for showing a great interest in our affairs again. He is a very busy man but he is interested in this Assembly. So I am grateful to him. I thank the ladies who have been looking after the electronic recording equipment, both the visual and the sound. But in particular I want to thank the Greffe, and the staff of the Greffe, for making this happen. Mark and Lisa, and I am sure Mark will not mind if I single out Lisa in particular, who does a tremendous amount of work to make sure that this Assembly happens and is successful. Liaising with the schools and colleges, preparing the papers, everything that it takes to get us here on time and to have a successful event. So, Lisa, thank you very much indeed. **[Approbation]** As far as I am concerned, I would like to thank all of you participants. It really has been - I am sitting up here - a stimulating day. You never quite know what you are going to get and I have been involved for almost all of these Assemblies. But I have got to say that the quality of the question time, the supplementary questions, the speeches and the passion that is shown in some of those speeches, the number of people who wanted to participate, has been as good as any other year.

[17:15]

You have been truly eloquent and a credit to yourselves and your schools and your colleges. So thank you very much for that. Lisa has sent me some notes. Apparently 80 questions were asked this morning, including the supplementaries and the ones to the Chief Minister. It is more than we normally do for a Youth Assembly. There are a lot of other figures there which I will not bother to read out at the moment. Sorry, Lisa, I cannot work it out. That is the 5 debates, 14 speakers in the first; 12 in the second; 9 in the third; 9 in the fourth; and 23 in the fifth; 67 speeches in 91 minutes. I wish we could do that on Tuesdays. So thank you all very much for your attendance and, if I could remind you, you are invited for a drink and a nibble in the Members' common room downstairs, that includes your teachers, friends and whoever else is in the public gallery. Miss Pallent.

Miss Pallent:

Just before we go on to refreshments I think I speak for everyone who has had the opportunity to take part in this Assembly today that we have all had an absolutely fantastic afternoon and thank you very much, Constable Norman, for giving up your Tuesday afternoon to come and listen to us natter on. Thank you. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Thank you, Miss Pallent. That is much appreciated and I have really, really, really enjoyed it. The Assembly stands adjourned until about this time next year. See you downstairs.

ADJOURNMENT

[17:16]