

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 18th MARCH 2003, BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER**

Question

Following the decision of the States on 4th March 2003, to defer debate on the proposition P.7/2003 'School Milk: provision for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005', and in the light of recommendation Nos. 22, 23 and 24 of the report by Dr. Donald McQueen dated February 2003 regarding 'The Dairy Industry in Jersey: a strategic Review', will the President –

- (a) indicate when he expects to bring measures to the States on the immediate assistance outlined in recommendation 22 of the report?;
- (b) indicate when he expects to report what action the Committee is proposing in order to meet the longer term goal of lowering milk production costs and stabilising the size of the Island herd, as outlined in recommendations 23 and 24? and,
- (c) confirm that some means will be found to support the continued provision of school milk, (as stated in recommendation 22(c)), when the current funding arrangements terminate at the end of this year?

Answer

- (a) Following the release of Dr. McQueen's report on 14th February 2003, the Economic Development Committee allowed a period of one month for the dairy industry and any others with an interest in the future of the industry to put forward their views. That period ended on Friday 14th March 2003. The Committee will now be considering what steps need to be taken bearing in mind Dr. McQueen's recommendations and the views subsequently expressed by the industry and the Agriculture and Fisheries Advisory Board. The Committee will be discussing the matter at its meeting on 26th March 2003. Depending on the outcome it is possible that the Committee will then discuss with the Finance and Economics Committee the extent to which Dr. McQueen's recommendations for additional short-term financial assistance can be met. If necessary, the Committee will consider bringing proposals to the States.
- (b) Before deciding what action to take, the Committee must first evaluate the responses from the consultative process that ended last Friday. Dr. McQueen will be involved in deciding any proposed action.
- (c) I am not able to confirm this.