

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE HARBOURS AND AIRPORT
COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY, 21st JANUARY 2003
BY DEPUTY G.C.L. BAUDAINS OF ST. CLEMENT**

Question

With regard to the breakdown of the Elizabeth marina gates, would the President advise members –

- (a) why notices were not immediately put in a conspicuous position (such as at the top of the ‘ramp’) to advise boat owners of the problem and how long the delay was before they were so put?
- (b) whether a comprehensive set of most likely needed spares is kept for the gates and if not, why not?
- (c) whether boat owners with contracts will be reimbursed for the period normal facilities were denied them?

Answer

- (a) Staff were on duty over the Christmas period at the Elizabeth Marina and it was expected that the gates would be operational within a short period of time, as electronic faults are normally straightforward to rectify.

The Duty Officer had advised Port Control who were, therefore, aware of the situation and in a position to respond to boat owners requesting information. Signs were posted on the access gates on Boxing Day morning and marina staff on duty endeavoured to advise those persons proceeding towards their craft. The St Helier Yacht Club race control was also notified. It is therefore considered that the signs were posted without undue delay and all reasonable efforts were taken to advise those yachtsmen wishing to proceed to sea.

- (b) A comprehensive set of spares, as recommended by the manufacturer and designer of the marina gate system, are held in stock at the Harbour. This comprises some 45 different items. The proximity switch which failed was not listed as a recommended spare. Replacements will be kept in stock in future.
- (c) Following the opening of the Elizabeth Marina in April 1998, the States set the Elizabeth Marina contract rates lower than that of the La Collette Yacht Basin and the St Helier Marina. A reason for this differential is that the contract between berth holders and the Committee states that the berth holders will not seek reimbursement for such happenings.

I take this opportunity to thank the Harbourmaster, marina staff and the team of Jersey Harbours’ engineers who endeavoured to fix the fault throughout the Christmas holiday period and made every effort to ensure that inconvenience to berth holders was kept to a minimum.

I also wish to express my regret for the inconvenience that this incident caused.