

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY, 4th NOVEMBER 2003 BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN**

Question

As the Guernsey fishing licensing scheme is now in place, would the President inform members –

- (a) of the number of Jersey fishing vessels that have been excluded from fishing within Guernsey waters?
- (b) of the number of appeals to the Guernsey authorities by Jersey fishermen that have been successful?
- (c) what action the Committee is taking to resolve the present difficulties and state whether a request has been made to the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for assistance?
- (d) whether the UK Minister with responsibility for the Channel Islands has become involved in this matter, and if so, notify members of the outcome of any meetings that have been held?

Answer

- (a) Our information is that 76 Jersey vessels applied for Guernsey licences. Of these, only vessels with DEFRA (U.K.) licences have been granted a Guernsey licence. There were 8 such vessels; therefore, 68 Jersey vessels could be seen to have been excluded from Guernsey waters and also waters lying between the 3 mile and 12 mile limit of the Bailiwick of Guernsey.
- (b) There have been no successful appeals by Jersey fishermen.
- (c) The Committee is taking the following action to resolve the present difficulties. Firstly, it will be meeting with the Guernsey authorities at the highest level. Secondly, it is reviewing how our licensing scheme can be amended to provide Jersey fishermen with a better chance of gaining access to the waters adjacent to Guernsey; this will require the cooperation of DEFRA, and our officers are currently developing a case to take forward. Thirdly, advice is being sought from the Law Officers' Department on options available to challenge the legality of Guernsey's scheme.
- (d) At present the U.K. Minister with responsibility for the Channel Islands has not become involved in this issue. However, when the case referred to in answer (c) is taken to DEFRA then I will ask that the Minister does become involved.