

QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 7th OCTOBER 2003, BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN

Question

Would the President inform members –

- (a) whether access cards will be issued to States members in respect of Morier House and the States Building, and, if so, when?
- (b) whether the delay in issuing cards to States members in respect of these premises arises from the issue of trust?
- (c) whether the Environment and Public Services Committee intends to hand over the management of these premises to the Privileges and Procedures Committee, and, if so, when?

Answer

- (a) Morier House is under the administration of the Environment and Public Services Committee through the Department of Property Services. The Facilities Management Services, which include cleaning and maintenance as well as security arrangements for the building, are contracted to the Public Services Department. Currently only staff working within the building and a small number of States Members who require regular access to the building on a daily basis are issued with key cards to operate the electronic door system.

To maintain the strict security that is required by the Crown Officers and other legal department staff working within the building, the issue of key cards is kept to the absolute minimum to prevent, as far as possible, any unauthorised entry or misuse. States Members who require access for meetings have only to report to the security desk on entry so that a record is kept of who is in the building at any particular time should a fire or other situation arise which requires emergency evacuation. There are currently no plans to issue these cards to each and every States Member who requires only infrequent access to Morier House.

The existing security arrangements at Morier House have been the subject of continual monitoring and gradual improvement by Property Services in consultation with the Heads of each Department and the building's User Group since the building was first brought into use. The experience gained at Morier House by Property Services and Public Services has been successful and will eventually lead to a greater degree of improved and appropriate security in all States buildings.

The newly refurbished States Building is managed by the Public Services Department which, in consultation with the three principle users and Property Services, will shortly be reviewing the security arrangements for the building and reporting back to the Committee with its recommendations before the end of the year.

- (b) The trustworthiness of States Members is not in doubt. Key cards have been issued to the small number of States Members who actually requested and demonstrated the need for them to gain regular access to their Departments within Morier House. Arrangements for States Members with regard to the States Buildings will be finalised with the Privileges and Procedures Committee.
- (c) Morier House is effectively managed by the Department of Property Services using standard facilities management practice. If planned changes are implemented to include public access committee rooms, scrutiny and States Members facilities at ground floor level in the future, then the Privileges and Procedures Committee as a tenant will be responsible for how those particular facilities are used, together with separate arrangements for access to those facilities. It is important that the States Building and Morier House and the efficient departmental use of those offices remains within the proposed integrated property management

function. There are no plans to place that function with the Privileges and Procedures Committee.