

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2003, BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN**

**Question**

- (a) Under the Emergency Measures Plan, historically the Island held three months food supply in the Island. In recent times these food stocks have been reduced. Given that all food carries a sell-by date, will the President indicate, in weeks and months, what food stocks are held in the event of an emergency?;
- (b) earlier in 2003, I had a meeting with the Emergencies Council and was given an assurance that an updated emergency manual, namely an Emergency Measures Plan would be forthcoming. Will the President give details of when the said Plan will be forthcoming?;
- (c) will the President inform members whether the updated Emergency Measures Plan will be presented to the States for consideration, and , if not, the reasons why?

**Answer**

- (a) The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries agreed to take responsibility for Emergency Food Planning from the former Defence Committee with effect from 1st January 1990.

Stocks of margarine, biscuits and yeast were kept in the store until 1994/1995, when, following consultations with the former MAFF, now known as DEFRA, and other appropriate organisations, these stocks were disposed of. This decision was made as it was felt that it was no longer appropriate to keep such stocks due to changing attitudes concerning peace time requirements and the cost of replacing them as they became out of date.

It is estimated that three weeks of food stocks, namely tinned goods, are held generally by commercial organisations in the Island at any one time.

In the event of a peace time disaster affecting the Island, support and provisions could be obtained speedily through the U.K. If the problem is caused by a worldwide conflict, certain factories and manufacturers are able to increase and stockpile necessary items which could be ordered during the lead-up to any outright war situation.

- (b) The existing Emergency Measures Plan was last updated in April 2003. The next revision of the outline responsibilities within the plan is due in February 2004, and it is anticipated that an updated Emergency Measures Plan Part I will be issued shortly thereafter. Any operational changes arising from the updated plan will be reflected in alterations to departmental major incident plans.
- (c) The current Emergency Measures Plan is classified and, as far as I know, was never presented to the States. The Emergencies Council has not considered putting the revised Plan to the States for consideration.