

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ON
TUESDAY, 4th NOVEMBER 2003 BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. MARTIN**

Question

On 7th October 2003, in answer to a question regarding the release of prisoners for home leave or outside work, the President stated that prisoners are currently eligible for consideration for outside work scheme after having served half of the custody period.

- (a) Would the President inform members if any prisoners have been released on a discretionary basis for outside work or home leave before they have served half their custody period, if the answer is in the affirmative would the President give reasons for the early release?
- (b) When did the above schemes begin and was the Committee aware of their implementation?
- (c) How many prisoners have been released under the schemes during the last 12 months?
- (d) How many prisoners are currently enjoying the privilege of early release under the schemes?

Answer

- (a) On the 7th October 2003, I also made a statement in which I informed the Assembly that the Committee would be commissioning an independent report on the operation of prison temporary release. The Committee appointed Dr. Debbie King, formerly the Island's Chief Probation Officer, to carry out the report. She has completed her enquiries and is presently writing the report. I expect to receive the first draft in the next week. Part (a) of the question was included in her terms of reference and it would therefore be inappropriate to pre-empt her findings. The report will be presented in due course.
- (b) The present Committee delegated the power to grant temporary release under Prison Rule 73(2) to the Prison Governor at its second meeting on the 16th January 2003. The previous Home Affairs Committee had formerly given the Prison Governor the same delegation. In its time, the Prison Board first introduced an experimental home leave scheme in September 1993. In March 1995, the Board endorsed an outside work scheme.
- (c) Over the last 12 months, out of a total of 563 prisoners, 124 have been involved in temporary release schemes. Of the 124, 29 have also been 'tagged' under the Temporary Release Monitoring Scheme of which 14 remain 'tagged'. The 124 prisoners on temporary release comprised of 89 adult males, 12 adult females, 20 male young offenders and 3 female young offenders.
- (d) There are currently no prisoners on home leave or any other form of temporary release except for nine prisoners currently engaged in the outside work scheme.