

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 30th MARCH 2004, BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN**

Question

Would the President inform members what action, if any, the Committee is taking to ensure the appropriate disposal of all discarded agricultural polythene in the Island?

Answer

Since 2003, any grower wishing to receive Area Payments has to complete a declaration. Section 4 of the declaration is as follows –

‘that I/we agree to dispose of any plastic film used to grow crops on the land I/we farm in 2003 in a method specified by the Department and I/we agree to pay the disposal charge of £188 per tonne of material for disposal.’

Of the 150 registered growers, 88 signed the above mentioned declaration and therefore received Area Payments.

Those growers that grew potatoes under plastic in 2003 had to complete a further declaration giving details of plastic film to be disposed of in 2003, to be retained for further use and to be temporarily stored including the place of storage. The information contained within this declaration was checked against disposal records held by Public Services Department and a random physical check was carried out.

The same procedure will be carried out in 2004; this ensures that only those willing to commit to appropriate disposal of their plastic receive Area Payments.