

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2004

Question

Would the President advise members –

- (a) whether gaming machines are registered, and, if so, how many currently exist in Jersey and where they are located?
- (b) of those located in betting shops how many there are in each shop?
- (c) whether the Committee has dedicated staff with responsibility for gambling matters, and, if so, how many; if not, would the President state the reasons why?
- (d) how the supervision of gaming machines is policed?
- (e) whether there are gaming premises in the Island where croupiers are employed, and if so, where are these located; if not, would the President advise whether there have been any gaming premises where card games have been played but have ceased to operate in the last ten years? and,
- (f) whether the Committee is considering increasing gaming machines in betting shops?

Answer

- (a) Gaming Machines are licensed and registered under Part Two of the Gambling (Gaming and Lotteries) Regulations and through the Gambling (Gaming and Lotteries) (Gaming Machines) (Jersey) Order 2003. The Regulations specify the maximum stake and payout, as well as the minimum percentage payout. Machines that do not comply with these provisions may not be licensed under these Regulations and the Gambling (Jersey) Law (1964) as amended, does not make provision for any other types of machine to be used.

There are currently 28 licensed gaming machines in Jersey, down from 43 in 2003. There has, however, been a slow increase in the use of illegal machines. These were first notified to the Law Officers' Department in 2000 when one bookmaker introduced them and have been steadily growing to the extent that nearly all the different bookmakers are currently operating them. This year some 75 illegal machines have been identified.

- (b) The premises operating both licensed gaming machines and illegal machines are listed below -

GAMING MACHINES IN LICENSED BETTING OFFICES
(Illegal Machines are in bold italics)

	2003	2004	2004
Vaudin & Gallichan Ltd., 43 La Colomberie, St. Helier	0	0	2
C. G. Taylor (T.A.) Ltd., 79A Great Union Road, St. Helier	1	0	2
Ladbroke (Channel Islands) Limited, Trinity House, Bath Street, St. Helier	2	2	7
Ladbroke (Channel Islands) Limited,			

Beaumont, St. Peter. (Now Closed)	1	0	0
Ladbroke (Channel Islands) Limited, Units 1-2 Quennevais Parade, St. Brelade. (New Premises)	0	1	6
Ladbroke (Channel Islands) Limited, 23 Colomberie, St. Helier	2	2	3
Ladbroke (Channel Islands) Limited, 35/40 The Parade, St. Helier	2	2	3
Ladbroke (Channel Islands) Limited, 8 Seaton Place, St. Helier	2	1	2
Ladbroke (Channel Islands) Limited, Westleigh, First Tower, St. Helier	2	0	1
Ladbroke (Channel Islands) Limited, 13/15 Don Street, St. Helier	2	2	7
Ladbroke (Channel Islands) Limited, 11a La Motte Street, St. Helier	2	2	3
B.J. O'Connor Ltd. (Stanleybet), 74 Bath Street, St. Helier	2	2	6
B.J. O'Connor Ltd. 31 Burrard Street, St. Helier	2	1	4
B.J. O'Connor Ltd., 11 Charing Cross, St. Helier	2	1	3
B.J. O'Connor Ltd., 14 Conway Street, St. Helier	2	2	6
B.J. O'Connor Ltd., Crown Stores, Princess Tower Road, Five Oaks, St. Saviour	2	1	4
B.J. O'Connor Ltd., 71 New Street, St. Helier	2	1	2
B.J. O'Connor Ltd., Bank Place, Charing Cross, St. Aubin	2	0	3
B.J. O'Connor Ltd., 4 Centre Point, St. Brelade	2	1	3
B.J. O'Connor Ltd., 36 Poonah Road, St. Helier	0	0	1
Joe Jennings (Jersey) Ltd., 27 Kensington Place, St. Helier. (now closed)	2	0	0
Joe Jennings (Jersey) Ltd., 49 Halkett Place, St. Helier (new premises)	0	1	4
Joe Jennings (Jersey) Ltd., 1 Dicq Corner, Havre des Pas, St. Helier	2	1	2
Joe Jennings (Jersey) Ltd., 5 Gloucester Street, St. Helier	2	1	2

Joe Jennings (Jersey) Ltd., 14 Cheapside, St. Helier.	2	1	2
E. Coomes (Jersey) Ltd., 9 Esplanade, St. Helier	1	1	0
E. Coomes (Jersey) Ltd., 35 Trinity Road, St. Helier	1	1	0
E. Coomes (Jersey) Ltd., 1 Bagot Road, St. Saviour	1	1	0
TOTAL	43 in 2003	28 in 2004	78 in 2004

- (c) The Committee has one and a half full-time equivalents currently directly responsible for gambling matters.
- (d) The machines are policed in a variety of ways. The department has access to an on-line tracking system to monitor the licensed machines. They also receive printed movement schedules indicating where individual machines are operating and when they are to be moved. These are backed up by a series of random on-site inspections. It was during these inspections that the operation of illegal machines was detected and the advice of the Attorney-General was requested to confirm their status. This advice was received in October of this year and as a result the Committee has written to all licensed bookmakers informing them that if any illegal machines are still on their premises after 31st December 2004, they will face prosecution.
- (e) There are no gaming premises in the Island that the Committee is aware of that employ croupiers, or other staff involved in the playing of casino style games directly with the public. There are no premises that the Committee is aware of where card games have been played in the last ten years.
- (f) The Committee has no intention of increasing gaming machines in betting shops and has acted to remove machines that are operating illegally. The Committee's strategy for modernising the Island's Gambling Law is to ensure that there is no increase in ambient machine gambling, which it recognises as being particularly significant as a cause of problem gambling. For that reason, the Committee would only sanction the licensing of new machines within a properly regulated casino and not on the high street in bookmakers shops. This is because the decision to go to a casino would be properly thought out, which significantly reduces the risk of a person gambling to excess. High value machines in bookmakers, however, would be a significant risk because there would be no need to make a conscious decision to go and play; they could in effect, be 'happened upon' by chance during the course of the ordinary working day. The Committee considers this risk to be too great and thus rejects any increase in machine gambling within licensed bookmakers