

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICES
COMMITTEE BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2004

Question

Would the President inform members –

- (a) of the costs of the Environment Impact Study carried out in respect of the Vodka Distillery site Application No.PP2004/2180?
- (b) whether this sum of money is to be recovered from the Jersey Potato Export Marketing Board (JPEMB), and, if not, the reasons why? and,
- (c) whether the Committee will give details to members and the public regarding the outcomes of the Environment Impact Study prior to the Committee making a decision on the planning application for the Vodka Distillery?

Answer

- (a) I refer back to the response to Question 4, reproduced below, of the written questions submitted by Deputy T.J. Le Main of St. Helier to which the answers were tabled on Tuesday 9th November 2004 –

Question 4

Will the President confirm that his departmental officers are currently undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment of this proposal, and advise how many man hours have so far been spent carrying out this assessment and the financial cost?

Answer

The Department does not carry out EIAs. EIAs are the responsibility of the proposer who would bear the cost should the application be progressed, the Department just co-ordinates the process and evaluates the Assessment once it is completed. To date the Department has spent in the order of 1 day (at a cost of £205) covering pre-application discussion about the project and the creation of a scoping document which sets out those issues that we would expect the Environmental Impact Assessment to address.

To further clarify, as far as I am aware, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has not yet been carried out by the developer for the Vodka Distillery. The report submitted with application no. PP/2004/2180 was a Scoping Report. At the scoping stage, the developer provides the Environment Department with a written proposal, which should include a brief description of the project including suitable drawings of the proposed site and development. Sufficient copies are provided by the developer (i.e. at their own expense) for circulation to consultees, who are asked for comments on what environmental issues they would expect to see covered in the assessment. The Environment Department compiles the comments into a standard report format and issues it to the developer. As stated above, an officer has spent approximately one day on this process to date.

- (b) No costs, except the one day of staff time mentioned above, have been incurred. The administration of the EIA process is an integral part of the role of the Environment Department.
- (c) EIA requires effective consultation with key stakeholders throughout the process so that potentially contentious issues can be drawn out and addressed. The finished report will be made available to the public

for consideration.