

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
HARBOURS AND AIRPORT COMMITTEE  
BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN**

**ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 14th DECEMBER 2004**

**Question**

Would the President inform members –

- (a) of the current value of the Duchess of Normandy and give details of what works have been carried out on the vessel over the last three years, such as new engines, replacement electronics etc, and the value of the works carried out? and,
- (b) of the programme put in place to replace the vessel if any?

**Answer**

- (a) In 2003, an independent Naval Architect's valuation estimated a current market value of no more than £50,000 on the vessel. A secondary verbal valuation from the original builder of the vessel indicated that a market value of £40,000 was now more realistic.

Over the last three years, a total amount of £21,000 (average £7,000 per annum) has been spent on the Duchess of Normandy, excluding salary and fuel cost. These costs relate to licences, certification, equipment, hull and machinery maintenance. No major works, (such as new engines, or re-wiring), has been undertaken for at least seven years.

These works are all running costs and do not effect the status of the vessel which, to quote from the valuation, 'in its current form would not satisfy the requirements of the Code of Practice for Small Workboats and Pilot Boats. Therefore, the potential market is very restricted. If the vessel were purchased for commercial operation, it would require issue of appropriate certification and considerable and costly modification would be necessary. Alternative sale for private pleasure use would also require extensive modification'.

- (b) The 'Duchess of Normandy' is being replaced through the implementation of the strategy to integrate the Pilotage Service within Jersey Harbours' operations. From January 2005, having acquired the two pilot boats from the Company of Town Pilots, Jersey Harbours will use one of those boats, (which both meet Workboat Code of Practice standards), to fulfil the previous functions of the Duchess of Normandy.

This forms a tangible part of meeting our objective of offering a better, simpler and cheaper service. Estimated savings of £120,000 per annum are being achieved as a direct result of the Pilotage integration and further savings achieved through the Marine Centre project, of which the Pilotage is a part, amount to a further £150,000. Furthermore, the work required to convert the Duchess of Normandy to workboat standards has not been necessary. These savings do indeed allow us to provide a better and safer integrated service.