

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

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 1st MARCH 2005

Question

Would the President provide members –

- (a) with full details of the funding granted by the Committee to the Jersey Potato Export Marketing Board; and,
- (b) whether the Jersey Potato Export Marketing Board will now reimburse the States with the sum of £105,000 following the decision not to proceed with plans to establish a vodka distillery, and, if not, what action, if any, does the Committee intend to take to recover these funds?

Answer

- (a) A similar question was answered on 28th September 2004. The Jersey Potato Export Marketing Board, (JPEMB), was awarded a total of £337,700 in operating costs for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004, with no budget provision for 2005.
- (b) The JPEMB has not decided to abandon its plans to establish a Vodka distillery. The Board decided not to proceed with a planning application to locate the distillery on the previously identified site in St. Lawrence. The Board is currently investigating alternative sites.

A grant was made through the Marketing Support Scheme in order for the Board to carry out a feasibility study for the production of a range of alcoholic products from potatoes that are not suitable for other purposes. This work has been carried out as detailed in the Business Plan presented to and approved by the Marketing Support Panel. Should the project be abandoned at a future date, then the Board will not be obliged to reimburse the States with the sum of £105,000 as the grant agreement did not contain a condition relating to such reimbursement.