

3.7 Deputy G.P. Southern of the Minister for Economic Development regarding workers employed in the fulfilment industry:

Will the Minister inform Members of the total number of workers employed in the fulfilment industry in the period October 2005 to January 2006 and indicate how many of these employees were (1) temporary contract staff and (2) non-locally qualified?

Deputy A.J.H. Maclean (Assistant Minister for Economic Development):

I am afraid that this information is not yet available as the labour market report for the period 31st December 2005 is not due for publication by the States of Jersey Statistics Unit until 5th April.

3.7.1 Deputy G.P. Southern:

Will the Minister note my extreme dissatisfaction with such a dismissive answer when very simply he could, like I have, turned to minutes of meetings of the RUDL (Regulations and Undertakings and Development Law) which indicate that at least 40 non-locally qualified employees were given permission to be employed in this period? And, further, will he report back to his Minister my extreme dissatisfaction with the answer given to a written question earlier which says: "It is therefore only proper that information requested, which has already been requested by the Department by the Panel, is considered as part of the Scrutiny process rather than through parliamentary questions." He, along with his Minister, appears to be saying that once a topic is given to scrutiny they will not answer further questions in public?

The Deputy Bailiff:

A precise question please, Deputy.

Deputy G.P. Southern:

Does he not think this is an abuse of this House?

Connétable G.W. Fisher of St. Lawrence:

Sir, excuse me, but earlier I did mention that a full response to that written question would be given later, and therefore there is no intention of abusing the situation or reducing the amount of information that is available.

Deputy A.J.H. Maclean:

Yes, Sir, I would just like to add to that and say that there was no intention at all to be dismissive with regard to the comment that I made. Simply that we like to deal with facts and we would prefer to wait until the official figures are available rather than speculating.

3.7.2 Deputy P.J.D. Ryan of St. Helier:

Can the Assistant Minister confirm that there are, in fact, no non-locally qualified members of staff employed in the fulfilment sector of Jersey Post itself? At least that would give us some information and maybe give an indication as to whether... or perhaps it will come out at a later date in a report how many are employed outside of Jersey Post?

Deputy A.J.H. Maclean:

No, I am afraid I am not able to give that information but the details will come out in due course.

The Connétable of St. Lawrence:

Sir, if I may butt-in there because I am responsible for Jersey Post whereas the other Assistant Minister of Economic Development is not, and the 2 things are quite separate. Fulfilment is one subject, Jersey Post is another. This seems to be a question related to Jersey Post but it is my understanding, although I do not have the figures in front of me, that Deputy Ryan is right in putting the point that if there are any employees who are non-qualified in Jersey Post in the fulfilment industry it is very small indeed.