

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
BY DEPUTY P.V.F. LE CLAIRE OF ST. HELIER**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY, 10th OCTOBER 2006

Question

- (a) Has there been any contamination of reservoirs from leachate caused by green waste or agricultural waste since 1995 and, if so, what has been the remediation of these incidents and what has it cost?
- (b) How many sites, if any, has the Planning and Environment Department monitored and, how many, if any, does it continue to monitor, in relation to leachate contamination in Jersey from green waste and agricultural waste; how much, if anything, has this management and monitoring cost the Department since 1995 and how many man hours have been involved?

Answer

- (a) No incidents of direct pollution of storage reservoirs caused by green waste or agricultural waste have been reported to Environmental Protection at the Planning and Environment Department since 1995. However, since 1995, a total of 73 pollution incidents involving organic leachate or slurry have been reported to, and investigated by, Environmental Protection. In 46 of these incidents, there was indication of run-off of organic leachate into surface streams or groundwater that may subsequently have contaminated storage reservoirs with nutrients and other pollutants. In many cases, the investigations led to enforcement action being taken under the Water Pollution (Jersey) Law 2000 and remedial action, such as moving the waste or improving the storage on site, was undertaken by the landowner or occupier under the 'polluter pays' principle. It is difficult to quantify the monetary or officer time involved as this work is an integral part of the work of Environmental Protection, but each incident involved at least several hours of officer time.
- (b) In addition to the above investigations and monitoring, 2 sites continue to be monitored on a long-term regular basis.

Since the burial of more than 4,000 tonnes of potatoes at Beauport in 1992, 271 leachate samples have been taken on site for analysis. Currently the Beauport leachate is sampled on a monthly basis, each sample takes about 45 minutes to collect, as the work is done as part of a larger sampling round. This equates to about 9 hours each year. Total monitoring and site visit time is estimated to be 400 hours since 1992.

The Crabbé composting site in St Mary continues to be monitored for groundwater contamination caused by the composting process. The monitoring and sampling is carried out on a quarterly basis. Currently, the total time for the Department is 12 man hours each quarter or 48 man hours each year.

It is expected that the monitoring programmes at Beauport and Crabbé will need to be continued for the foreseeable future.