

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
BY DEPUTY S. PITMAN OF ST. HELIER**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY, 7th NOVEMBER 2006

Question

- (a) Would the Minister inform members what policy, if any, the States of Jersey Police has on keeping records of drivers using mobile phones? If there is such a policy, when was it implemented?
- (b) Would the Minister inform members, how many incidents of speeding, drink driving and mobile phone use whilst driving have been recorded in the last three years by the States of Jersey Police?
- (c) Would the Minister inform members, what current and future campaigns there are, if any, to inform the general public and young people on the dangers of mobile phone use whilst driving?

Answer

- (a) Local records are kept of drivers reported for driving whilst using their mobile phones in the same way that records are kept for persons reported for any other offences.
- (b) For the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 (up to the 30th October) there have been the following recorded incidents of offences –
 - Speeding – 936, 1084 and 1461 respectively
 - Drink driving – 283, 240 and 196 respectively
 - Mobile phone use – 345, 254 and 300 respectively.
- (c) Preventing drivers using mobile phones whilst driving is, and has been, one of the States of Jersey Police's priorities in improving road safety. It will continue to be a priority for the Force.

There is currently a widely publicised "Hands Off" campaign aimed at informing the public about the dangers of mobile phone use while driving. The current campaign was started by the Jersey Evening Post following coverage of a local resident whose sister was killed in the UK by a person who was thought to have been driving while using a mobile phone. I, as Minister, and the States of Jersey Police support the principle of this campaign. It is an excellent example of a community-led drive to change people's behaviour through peer pressure in a way that enforcement alone never could achieve. The eventual aim must be to entrench a habit of personal responsibility and restraint so that people simply no longer drive and use a mobile phone.