

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY P.V.F. LE CLAIRE OF ST. HELIER**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 4th DECEMBER 2007

Question

Following recent publication of a new report by the official Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) -

- (a) what are the Island's current environmental commitments in terms of international agreements, how are they applied in Jersey and are they voluntary or legally binding?
- (b) What penalties, if any, could the Island face if it failed to maintain any of these agreements?
- (c) What are Jersey's current emissions by category as they are contained and identified in these agreements for the last three years?
- (d) What targets, if any, are we legally bound to achieve in any of these categories?
- (e) What intentions does the Minister have, if any, for committing Jersey to carbon reductions in the future?
- (f) Would the Minister consider an even greater cut than the United Kingdom's long term aim of a 60 per cent reduction in CO2 emissions by 2050?
- (g) Does the UK's decision to set legally binding limits have any impact on Jersey and has the Department sought legal advice in this regard?
- (h) What proposals does the Minister have to respond to the quickening pace of global warming?

Answer

- (a) Jersey is included in a number of Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreements by extension through the United Kingdom. The answer to this question has been restricted to the agreement that relates to Climate Change since that appears to be the area of interest identified by this question.

The Kyoto Protocol is a protocol to the international Framework Convention on Climate Change with the objective of reducing Greenhouse gases that cause climate change. Of the 172 parties that have ratified the protocol, 36 countries (plus the EU as a party in its own right) are required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the levels specified for each of them in the treaty.

A request was made to the UK Government in December 2006 to extend ratification of the Kyoto Protocol to Jersey and this was confirmed in May 2007. Jersey is included in the UK ratification and so our emissions are counted as part of the UK's 'carbon budget' and the Island has not been allocated a specific carbon emissions budget. Thus, because Jersey does not have an 'allocated amount' instead being included in the UK's quota, we do not have a separate enforceable binding target on emissions.

Nevertheless, the Island reports annually to the UK Government (via the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) which reviews our progress.

- (b) Although Jersey has obligations resulting from the extension of the Kyoto protocol, because there are no specific targets for Jersey there are no specific penalties that we would face as a result of the Convention. The commitments in international law lie with the United Kingdom as the state party. However, given that we report via the UK it is anticipated that should our emissions begin to rise significantly our performance

would be challenged as this would contribute unfavourably to the UK's overall reduction targets.

- (c) A breakdown of carbon emissions by category from 2001 are given below as collated by the Statistics Unit. Note - Emissions from electricity generated at the energy from waste plant at Bellozanne are not included.

	Total road transport	Electricity Generation	Household and business	All	All less electricity generation
2001	34,799	17,072	59,718	111,588	94,516
2002	34,256	13,687	58,266	106,209	92,523
2003	33,576	2,392	57,159	93,127	90,735
2004	32,523	6,299	57,676	96,498	90,199
2005	32,074	2,606	54,675	89,354	86,748
2006	31,921	3,781	57,059	92,761	88,980

- (d) I refer the Deputy to the answer given in part (b).
- (e) Despite the lack of binding targets on the Island in respect of greenhouse gas emissions we recognise that Jersey has an important role to play in demonstrating global environmental responsibility. Therefore, I have set out a proposed approach in the Energy Policy Green Paper 'Fuel for Thought?' that is currently out for public consultation. Following the consultation process a White Paper will be formulated with firm proposals which the States will be asked to support.

The proposals in the Energy Policy Green Paper aim to achieve 'secure, affordable and sustainable' energy for Jersey into the future. I would refer the Deputy to Chapter 4 which proposes an 'Energy Hierarchy'. The first and most important step of the hierarchy is to reduce energy use whilst the second step is to use low carbon fuels. Achieving the aims of both levels will contribute to a reduction in emissions as a result of energy use in Jersey.

The policy puts forward a policy and legislative framework to achieve these aims, including:

- Increasing the performance of the built environment comprising the domestic, governmental and industrial sectors to reach a target of a 20% reduction in energy use (Chapter 5);
- Reducing reliance on fossil fuel powered transport in parallel with the aims of the Integrated Travel and Transport Plan (Chapter 6);
- Implementing sustainable energy choices at the utility scale (Chapter 7) and at the community level via microgeneration (Chapter 10) and further exploiting energy recovery from waste (Chapter 8)

- (f) Jersey already performs well in terms of carbon emissions when measured against the agreed baseline 1990 performance. Since 1990, the Island's emissions have fallen by 32% as a result of the switch from on-island oil-fired electricity generation to imported nuclear-generated electricity from France. However, we know that Jersey must demonstrate a global commitment to best practice and the proposals put forward in the Energy Policy Green Paper are that we reduce carbon emissions by 64% on the baseline year by 2050 - which is slightly ahead of the UK target of 60%.
- (g) The legally binding targets to which the Deputy refers are not applicable to Jersey but I reiterate that the intention is that they will be surpassed following the success of the policies and legislative improvements put forward in the Energy Policy Green Paper. As UK legislation does not extend to Jersey, except on the explicit request of the Island authorities, the Department has not considered it necessary to seek legal advice as to the enforceability of the UK's targets. The Island has had an exchange of correspondence with the UK in preparation for the extension of the Kyoto treaty which gives assurance that binding targets will not be extended to Jersey.
- (h) Climate Change presents a variety of challenges to the Island as well as some opportunities. The Energy Policy Green Paper explores many of these in Part 4 - 'Planning and Adapting for Climate Change'. It is

intended that Jersey will play its part to reduce the on-Island contributions to greenhouse gases through the measures I have described above.

However, the Island must also prepare for the effects of climate change and in particular the green paper highlights the need for preparation by those industries most likely to be first affected by climate change (agriculture, fisheries and to some extent, tourism – Chapter 11). In addition, there will be impacts of a changing climate on local biodiversity and resources and it is highlighted in the consultation paper that this must form part of future planning.

The Energy Policy Green Paper also identifies some of the opportunities presented by climate change. An example would be in the expansion of the compliance market or possibilities in international carbon trading arising from the Island's expertise in the financial sector.