

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SPORT  
AND CULTURE BY DEPUTY S.S.A.P. POWER OF ST. BRELADE**

**ANSWERS TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 9th OCTOBER 2007**

**Question**

1. Would the Minister advise members how many days that Elizabeth Castle had to close during 2007 due to –
  - (a) the late arrival in Jersey of the Amphibious Vehicle known as the Castle Ferry,
  - (b) the number of recorded breakdowns to date of the Castle Ferry,
  - (c) the non-operational nature or other problems directly associated with the Castle Ferry that closed Elizabeth Castle for any other reason?
2. Would the Minister advise the Assembly of the admission figures to Elizabeth Castle for the comparable periods in 2006 and 2005 and would he further advise whether the estimated cost, in terms of loss of revenue to the Jersey Heritage Trust caused by these enforced closures, will be recovered from the new operator?
3. When are the two new amphibious machines referred to in the award of the new operating contract (2007) due to arrive in Jersey, when will the existing machine cease service and does he intend to review the operating contract of the new operator in light of the first season's experience?
4. Would the Minister advise -
  - (a) how many persons were admitted and attended the event held at Elizabeth Castle on 28th July 2007, how many people, if any, were stranded at the Castle after midnight, owing to a breakdown of the Castle Ferry and what time the Castle authorities finally evacuated and closed the Castle on the morning of Sunday 29th July?
  - (b) whether the States of Jersey Police asked for a meeting with the Jersey Heritage Trust owing to this incident to review operating procedures and contingencies?

**Answer**

1. During 2007 Elizabeth Castle had to close for 63 days due to the late arrival in Jersey of the Amphibious Vehicle known as the Castle Ferry.

There have been nine breakdowns or mechanical failures of the Castle Ferry to date, resulting in castle being closed for 30 hours.

Other problems which affected the ferry service leading to a closure of the Castle were due to the weather: five full days, 23 partial days. Total hours = 116 hours. By way of additional information I would like to add that in 2006, there were three full days, six partial days and an additional 11 hours (estimate 53 hours) of closure due to adverse weather conditions.

2. The admission figures to Elizabeth Castle for the comparable periods in 2006 and 2005 were as follows:

| Admission figures | start of season - end September |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2005              | 42,240                          |
| 2006              | 37,615                          |
| 2007              | 21,726                          |

Admission figures from 4 June (start of 2007 season at EC) - end September

|      |        |
|------|--------|
| 2005 | 28,395 |
| 2006 | 27,952 |
| 2007 | 21,726 |

The estimated loss of income will be recovered by the Jersey Heritage Trust from the new operator.

3. The new vessels are due to arrive in Jersey this October. However as there is less than one month left of the season (closes 5th November) it is envisaged that the two new vessels will begin operating the service at the start of 2008 season.

The Jersey Heritage Trust will be reviewing the contract with the new operators.

4. With regard to the event held at Elizabeth Castle on 28th July 2007, 6.30pm – 2am. There were 1,500 guests, of which 640 were delivered on the Castle Ferry. No guests were stranded after midnight. The event finished at 2am. The castle was clear by 2.20am by security staff hired by the event organisers in accordance with the event plan. The guests either walked back across the beach or took coach or Castle Ferry as arranged in the plan. The causeway was lit.

The only unfortunate incident that occurred with the Castle Ferry was on the outbound journey to the castle when a mechanical fault slowed the vessel down which resulted in guests arriving at the Castle later than anticipated.

All transport arrangements and payments of the Castle Ferry outside of Jersey Heritage Trust opening hours are arranged directly between the operator and event organisers.

The States of Jersey Police have not requested a meeting with the Jersey Heritage Trust.