

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
BY DEPUTY G.C.L. BAUDAINS OF ST. CLEMENT**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 29th JANUARY 2008

Question

With reference to answers to an oral question on 15th January 2008, regarding the carrying of weapons such as knives, would the Minister clarify whether the amendment to the Firearms (Jersey) Law 2000 to which she referred is already in place, or whether it is a matter which will come before the States for debate in due course? Further, as knives are clearly not firearms, would she explain why she has chosen the Firearms Law as the appropriate vehicle with which to address this issue?

Answer

The amendment to the Firearms Law with respect to knives is drafted but has not been lodged for debate as yet. There is still a period of consultation to complete before the Law is lodged.

I have taken the route of adding the amendment to the Firearms Law as this already has provision for offensive weapons, including knives, in Article 43. This provided the most expeditious route for implementing the new offences, as previously described.

However, I am looking into whether it may be more appropriate to create a freestanding Law to cover the issue, given the potential significance of such offences.