

2.4 Deputy F.J. Hill of St. Martin of the Minister for Home Affairs regarding the policy of the States of Jersey Police in respect of the recruitment and retention of officers with criminal convictions:

Will the Minister outline the policy of the States of Jersey Police in respect of the recruitment of officers with criminal convictions and the retention of serving officers who acquire criminal convictions, and advise whether this policy is compatible with that followed by the Honorary Police?

Senator W. Kinnard (The Minister for Home Affairs):

The States of Jersey Police currently operates to guidelines formulated by the former Home Affairs Committee in 2001. Certain offences such as murder, abduction, robbery, perverting the course of justice and sexual offences are an absolute bar to becoming a States of Jersey police officer. Where other offences are concerned, disqualification is not automatic but discretionary in line with the guidelines. The guidelines are comprehensive and deal with such issues as the nature of the conviction, aggravating factors, the penalty imposed and the age of the person when the offence occurred, present character, et cetera. Any criminal conviction by a serving officer would constitute a breach of the discipline code and would be dealt with by the Chief Officer in accordance with established disciplinary procedures. In the time available, Sir, and owing to the Attorney General's absence from the Island, I have not been able to find out whether the guidelines are compatible with those followed by the Honorary Police but I will take the matter up with the Attorney and provide this further information to the House at the earliest opportunity.

2.4.1 The Deputy of St. Martin:

Is the Minister able to inform the House how many officers there are serving within the States Police who do have criminal convictions, albeit maybe not within -- or within the guidelines?

Senator W. Kinnard:

I would need notice of that question.

The Deputy of St. Martin:

Would the Minister be able to provide that information to the House at a later date?

Senator W. Kinnard:

I will endeavour to, Sir, but it may take some time.