

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. MARTIN
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2010**

Question

- (a) Will the Minister inform Members of the number of properties, since January 2007, that have been searched by the States of Jersey Police in connection with the alleged misuse of personal computers and other electronic devices?
- (b) How many searches, if any, were conducted with the authority of a search warrant?
- (c) How many searches, if any, were conducted without a search warrant, and why?
- (d) How many people, if any, have been arrested as a result of the searches?
- (e) How many people, if any, have been charged with offences in relation to the searches?
- (f) What is the average time that personal computers and other items seized following the searches, are retained by the police?

Answer

Unfortunately, the questions are phrased in such a broad way that it is not possible to provide an answer to them without considerable research. As an example, question (c) would cover all instances of 'stop and search'.

Initial estimates from the States of Jersey Police are that a manual research of some 9,050 custody records would be needed. It would then be necessary to check these against paper copy warrants and PPCE authorities.

If this information were requested under the Freedom of Information Legislation in the UK, it would undoubtedly be classed as an exempt case. The obligation to comply would be discharged since it would exceed the appropriate expense limit [currently £450], and the information would only be supplied upon agreement to pay the necessary costs incurred in recovering the information.

Given the disproportionate nature of the request, along with the need to balance the use of scarce resources, I would ask the questioner to refine the question to enable me to elicit the specific information sought.