

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 19th JULY 2010**

Question

“Given that berth holders were told the Marina would be closed from January 2010 for alterations, has the income for winter contracts dropped in comparison to last winter and, if so, by how much?”

When will the proposed works be undertaken or has the work been abandoned?

Is the Minister satisfied with the take up of large super yacht moorings, and, if so, could he share with members what progress, if any, has been made in accommodating such vessels 12 months of the year?”

Answer

Marina occupancy fell generally last winter and Winter Contract income for St Helier Marina fell by £25,000 when compared to the same period in 2008/9. However, Jersey Marinas ended the year 8% above budget for 2009 with increased contract berths released and higher charges levied against larger vessels.

Following public consultation last winter, it became clear that the conceptual plans for future marina developments required further consideration, including the reconfiguration of St Helier Marina.

In a letter to the Boat Owners Association and Yacht Clubs, I instructed that all work to progress current marina development plans, including Phase 1 of the Jersey Harbours plans would be suspended.

Jersey Harbours will be forming a Marina Development Task and Finish Group (MDG) which will replace the Marine Leisure Growth Group. The MDG will have an independent Chairman and will comprise officers from Jersey Harbours, boat owners representatives nominated by Jersey’s Yacht Clubs and Associations, and up to three others from the marine trade and industry. The group will be tasked with producing options for development of marinas that will be commercially evaluated and considered as part of the East of Albert Project by the East of Albert Project Board.

The process should be seen as part of the broader East of Albert project and also take into account the draft Island Plan. The Chairman of the MDG and the Harbour Master will be invited to join the Project Board, chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive of the States of Jersey.

The MDG will form part of the remit of the new Shadow Board for Jersey Harbours and Jersey Airport, and will be responsible for co-ordinating all consultation activity with boat owners and other stakeholders and delivering a set of agreed options for evaluation.

This co-ordinated approach will be able to carefully consider and balance all commercial and leisure opportunities through a clear, transparent and independent process.