

3.14 Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier of the Minister for Economic Development regarding the classification of the Channel Islands Control Zone.

Why is the Channel Islands Control Zone classified as Class A airspace and how was this decision arrived at?

Senator A.J.H. Maclean (The Minister for Economic Development):

I will pass, if I may, to my Assistant Minister with responsibility for the ports but I would point out to Members who are itching to have a go at asking me a question that I have questions without notice coming up shortly.

Senator P.F. Routier (Assistant Minister for Economic Development - rapporteur):

Class A airspace is a legacy from 1947 when the Channel Island Control Zone was first established in 1947. It is now the subject of a review as part of the airspace project which is going on at the moment. Consultation with all users of the Channel Island air zone will form part of this review.

3.14.1 Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier:

Does the Assistant Minister concede that the review is long, long overdue and that Class A airspace is a totally over the top classification given the nature of Jersey and the Channel Islands' airspace?

Senator P.F. Routier:

I agree with the first part of the question, which is the review is totally overdue. We will await the outcome of the consultation to make a decision about whether this is over the top or not.

3.14.2 Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier:

Has the Assistant Minister compared the classification of the Jersey airspace to the classification, for example, of very large U.S. (United States) airports like Atlanta which are classified as Class B airspace?

Senator P.F. Routier:

That comparison is not something which I would get involved with, certainly the people who are carrying out the review and doing the current airspace project will be doing that and the consultation will obviously make those comparisons and help to inform what is hopefully a new and appropriate path into the Island and out of the Island for air traffic movements.