

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SPORT AND
CULTURE BY DEPUTY M. TADIER OF ST. BRELADE
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 8th OCTOBER 2013**

Question

What consideration, if any, has been given to building a multi-purpose Arts Centre in Jersey and, if none, why not?

If discussions have taken place, what potential sites have been identified, what costings and funding mechanisms are anticipated and is there support from the Department for such a project?

Answer

I can confirm that consideration is being given to the building of a multi-purpose Arts Centre in Jersey to address the shortcomings of the existing building in Phillips Street and the transfer of St James to the Youth Service. This has been addressed in the context of a review of the current range of arts and cultural facilities in the Island, which has been carried out by a project group including representatives of the Department for Education, Sport and Culture, the Jersey Arts Trust, and the Jersey Arts Centre. The project group has consulted with cultural organisations, States departments, and other interested parties.

The final report of the project group was received by the ESC Ministerial Team in September, and this included a recommendation that consideration be given to a new Arts Centre.

The ESC Ministerial Team has agreed that further consideration should be given to this proposal, and has requested that funding should be set aside in the Long Term Capital Plan in 2016 to enable this facility to be developed. It is recognised, however, that there are many other demands on the forward capital programme, and that decisions will need to be taken by the Council of Ministers about which projects can be afforded within the total funds available. It may be that an alternative option, such as the refurbishment or redevelopment of the existing site, will need to be considered.

At this early stage a site for a new arts centre has not been identified, and would only be explored further if the project was approved as part of the Long Term Capital Plan.