

3.19 The Connétable of St. Peter of the Minister for Transport and Technical Services regarding amendments to the driving licence applications process:

Further to the States approval on 3rd November 2011 of P.155/2011 – “Driving Licences: Theory Test” which agreed that a person must have passed a theory test before being granted permission to drive on the road. Could the Minister advise when he expects to lodge the amendments for debate as requested by the Assembly at that date?

Deputy K.C. Lewis of St. Saviour (The Minister for Transport and Technical Services):

Subject to availability of law drafting time I would expect to launch the amendments in the first quarter of 2015.

The Connétable of St. Peter:

I share the Constable of St. John’s view, I am flabbergasted and delighted to hear that. Thank you, no further questions.

3.19.1 Deputy T.A. Vallois:

Could the Minister explain why it was not put in as a law drafting requirement at the beginning of his term of office?

Deputy K.C. Lewis:

No. Changes are required to the driving licence system and the test booking system to accommodate the introduction of the theory test before granting a provisional licence. This will need to be funded and done when the legislation is changed. These changes will take time and the costs and extent of the work are currently being ascertained. These costs will be for the Comité to fund as it is the Parishes that collect and retain all money from driving licences. T.T.S. (Transport and Technical Services) have contacted the 2 organisations that develop and maintain the system ...

The Bailiff:

This does not answer the question about why was it not done at the beginning of your term?

Deputy K.C. Lewis:

Because it was complex. [Laughter] But it is proving more complicated than envisaged but both organisations have been reminded that the information is awaited and are currently finalising proposals and costs.