

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
BY DEPUTY M. TADIER OF ST. BRELADE
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2015**

Question

“Further to her answer given on 8th September 2015 to oral question 8939, could the Minister inform members when the previously mentioned arrests were made in relation to Operation Whistle, how many suspects have been questioned, and whether anyone has been charged in relation to the investigation and, if so, how many? Could she also advise what steps have been taken to date to encourage potential alleged victims or witnesses of abuse to come forward, including press releases and press conferences, for example?”

Answer

To date, there have been four arrests as part of Operation Whistle, which took place on 16th July, 3rd August, 11th August and 19th August 2015 respectively. In addition, two further suspects were interviewed under caution in the United Kingdom (UK) on 4th June and 27th August 2015. Two defendants have already been charged and appeared locally in court, whilst two remain on bail subject to charging decisions and two have been the subject of no further action (NFA). Further arrests and charges are anticipated as part of this on-going and complex investigation.

A small number of additional victims continue to come forward and make contact with the police. Operational Whistle is working to a documented communications and media strategy. Initial media engagement, including a witness appeal, was undertaken on 3rd June 2015. A further public and media update is due shortly. Key stakeholders, including the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry, are also being kept apprised of developments. Some victims have approached the police as a result of the media reporting of both the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry and the UK Operation Hydrant.

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