

5.8 Deputy M.R. Higgins of the Minister for Home Affairs regarding the operational control of the States of Jersey Police: [1(514)]

Will the Minister explain who is in *de jure* operational control of the States of Jersey Police at this time and who is in *de facto* control? If it is not the same person, will she advise how long the situation is to continue?

Deputy K.L. Moore of St. Peter (The Minister for Home Affairs):

R.93 of this year was communicated to States Members on 14th July and provided notice of my intention to appoint Mr. Rob Bastable as Acting Chief Officer of the States of Jersey Police and Mr. Julian Blazeby as Acting Deputy Chief Officer, effective from 31st July. These interim appointments were confirmed in a subsequent Ministerial Decision on 31st July. It follows, therefore, that these 2 individuals are in *de jure* and in *de facto* control of the States of Jersey Police.

5.8.1 Deputy M.R. Higgins:

A supplementary: is it the case that the person who has been appointed Acting Chief of Police is on leave or ill and, therefore, his functions are being done by the other officer? Is that correct or not?

The Deputy Bailiff:

Deputy, surely that is a matter that is personal. Could we not simply say are both of them functioning in post at the moment or something of that nature?

Deputy M.R. Higgins:

I think part of the problem is that again it is expenditure, who is doing what. We have the former Chief of Police who is still acting in various capacities. We have 2 officers doing the other. Surely it is a question: who is running the police force? If there is a problem, when will it be resolved?

The Deputy of St. Peter:

I am very disappointed by this line of questioning. **[Approbation]** It is not really a matter of debate for this Assembly. What is a matter of concern for the Assembly is that there is a robust command structure within the States of Jersey Police and that there is an effective and functioning police force to maintain public safety in the Island. As Minister, I am content that that is in place.