

2019.04.30

10 Deputy R.E. Huelin of St. Peter of the Minister for Infrastructure regarding the reported referral to the States of Jersey Police of comments made in relation to the hospital catering project at St. Peter's Technical Park: (OQ.98/2019)

Further to his response to Written Question 154/2019, in respect of the hospital catering project at St. Peter's Technical Park, that 'threatening comments from certain neighbours to the contractor have been referred to the police', will the Minister advise when, and how, he was informed of the referral and will he state who made the referral and on what date it was formally made to the police?

Deputy K.C. Lewis (The Minister for Infrastructure):

A few weeks ago, ministerial colleagues, the Chief Minister, the Deputy of St. Peter and officers had a very productive meeting with the residents adjacent to St. Peter's Technical Park. The meeting lasted just under 2 hours; it was very positive and we are moving forward with that now.

Unfortunately, the Deputy of St. Peter had previously submitted a written question, to which I was obliged to reveal there had been an altercation to which somebody called the police. But, I provided the Deputy of St. Peter with - obviously for data protection reasons, a redacted - email to that effect. I believe the incident happened in late January, the email is dated 30th January.

4.10.1 The Deputy of St. Peter:

I thank the Minister for his answer. Yes, there was a productive meeting going forwards; however, that does not preclude the fact that a statement was made through the written question that the police were notified. Before signing off Written Question 40/2019, did the Minister do any research into the corresponding behaviour of the contractors, to see if any alleged hostilities were provoked?

Deputy K.C. Lewis:

No, I was just notified that a complaint had been made to the police and, as I say, I am obliged to have the reply redacted, removing names, *et cetera*, of all parties.

4.10.2 The Deputy of St. Peter:

So, you are saying that the *J.E.P. (Jersey Evening Post)* published a defamation of character of these residents, but the residents are not allowed to know who are the complainants?

Deputy K.C. Lewis:

I was not aware that any resident's name was mentioned, or contractor's.

The Deputy of St. Peter:

One more supplementary?

The Bailiff:

You cannot have continuous supplementaries, but one more question if you wish.