

2020.06.02

7 Deputy C.S. Alves of the Minister for Home Affairs regarding the police not wearing face masks (OQ.140/2020):

Will the Minister advise why the police are not wearing face masks when patrolling and coming into contact with members of the public at distances of less than 2 metres?

Connétable L. Norman of St. Clement (The Minister for Home Affairs):

I am sure you will expect me to say, and I say it sincerely, that the safety of our police officers is an absolute priority. The States of Jersey Police is following national and local guidance on the use of personal protective equipment. The 3 main elements of that guidance is maintaining social distancing, ensuring basic hygiene and having personal protective equipment readily available for use when COVID-19 is suspected. Mandatory or routine wearing of masks and other P.P.E. (personal protective equipment) is not currently considered appropriate.

3.7.1 Deputy C.S. Alves:

Given that those working in restaurants such as waiters, *et cetera*, are using P.P.E. such as masks and the public are seeing this, does the Minister not agree that this should be an area where the States should be leading by example?

The Connétable of St. Clement:

Certainly the States of Jersey Police, as I said, are following local guidelines and following national guidelines. As far as masks are concerned, the recommendation as I understand it is that they are useful in enclosed spaces like shops and so on, but not necessarily as far as police officers are concerned when patrolling outside.