

23.09.12

3 Deputy M.R. Scott of St. Brelade of the Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture regarding aerated concrete in the estate owned and controlled by Ports of Jersey (OQ.168/2023)

Further to the enquiry made of the Minister for Infrastructure by the Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Panel last week regarding aerated concrete, will the Minister advise on the extent to which he has investigated whether any estate owned and controlled by the Ports of Jersey has been surveyed for aerated concrete, whether any aerated concrete has been identified, and any remedial measures being taken?

Deputy K.F. Morel of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity (The Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture):

I respectfully suggest that this question should have been asked of the Minister for Treasury and Resources as shareholder representative for Ports of Jersey because it is not ordinary for the Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture to be inspecting buildings at Ports of Jersey. But having undertaken enquiries, I can confirm that very few of Ports of Jersey's buildings were constructed during the window that aerated concrete was used, that is between 1950 and 1990, as a roofing and cladding material in construction. Inspections in June and July of the pier and departure terminal buildings have confirmed that aerated concrete is not present and surveyors have confirmed that it is highly unlikely that the airport arrivals building contains aerated concrete, given its construction predates the use of this material. As part of the ongoing airport masterplan work, further surveys are anticipated across the harbours estate and this will identify any potential issues with the building materials used, including the presence of R.A.A.C. (reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete).

5.3.1 Deputy M.R. Scott:

I would be grateful if the Minister could advise who would be the best Minister to ask when these additional surveys are expected to be taken and whether there could be regarded as some difficulty with respect to the split of the management of policy and finances of arm's length organisations in this regard between 2 Ministers?

The Bailiff:

Are you able to assist with that?

Deputy K.F. Morel:

Which of the 12 questions would you prefer me to answer, Sir?

The Bailiff:

Well, I think it is who ultimately has Ministerial responsibility for investigation of public estate buildings for aerated concrete, was what I understood the synopsis of the questions to have been, is that correct, Deputy Scott?

Deputy M.R. Scott:

Yes, I would like to know who to ask my additional question regarding when these surveys would be carried out.

The Bailiff:

Are you able to assist, Minister?

Deputy K.F. Morel:

The Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture has responsibility for ports policy. That is the use of ports as ferry and airport, so deciding about their connectivity and matters such as this. Corporate matters, such as the construction of buildings, they sit with the Minister for Treasury and Resources, in his role as the shareholder representative.