

8. The Chief Minister regarding an anthem for Jersey

8.1 Senator F.H. Walker (The Chief Minister):

I would like to notify Members that, with the support of the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture - Senator M.E. Vibert - and the Assistant Minister with responsibility for Culture - the Deputy of Grouville - a competition is to be held to seek an anthem for Jersey. Members will know that the number of occasions on which the Island wishes to celebrate its own distinct identity is increasing. Many of these relate to sporting occasions when Islanders receive a medal or other recognition as events involving other islands and, indeed, sometimes other countries. The Island Games and the Commonwealth Games are well-known examples. It has rightly been pointed out by some of those participating that there is at present uncertainty as to the anthem which should be played. Ma Normandie is often relied upon because of its association with our past but, of course, it is a piece of music which has itself no connection with Jersey. Indeed, it has quite different associations for many. Following discussion with the Assistant Minister, Deputy Carolyn Labey, the Deputy of Grouville, and with the valued support of the Bailiff, it is intended to mount a competition to seek a specific Island anthem which might be suitable for such occasions. On the assumption that the competition produces something of appropriate quality, I intend then to bring to the Assembly a proposition seeking its formal adoption as Jersey's anthem. I should make it quite clear that this is not to be a replacement for the National Anthem, which will continue to be played in recognition of our constitutional position and of our loyalty and affection for the Crown. I hope, however, that the opportunity for the Assembly to endorse an anthem to be used to reinforce our sense of identity in the circumstances I have mentioned will be widely welcomed.

The Deputy Bailiff:

Are there any questions?