

STATEMENTS OF A MATTER OF OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITY

7. The Chairman of the Comité des Connétables will make a statement regarding the Island-wide rate for 2010

7.1 Connétable K.P. Vibert of St. Ouen:

I wish to inform Members of the cost to ratepayers across the Island, of the Island-wide rate for 2010, which has been determined in accordance with Rates (Jersey) Law 2005. The 2010 annual Island-wide rate figure is the 2009 figure of £10,305,572, increased by the Jersey Retail Price Index for the 12 months to March 2010 of 3.2 per cent, resulting in a sum of £10,635,350. In accordance with the Rates Appointment (Jersey) Regulations 2006, 55 per cent of the annual Island-wide rate figure is to be met from the domestic rates, and 45 per cent of the annual Island-wide rate figure is to be met from the non-domestic rates. The sum of £5,849,442 is, therefore, to be raised from the domestic rates and the sum of £4,785,908 from the non-domestic rates. The rates are determined by dividing the sum to be raised between the number of quarters assessed on domestic and non-domestic property. The rates will, therefore, be 0.66 pence per quarter for the domestic ratepayer and 1.14 pence per quarter for the non-domestic ratepayer.

7.1.1 Senator A. Breckon:

I wonder if I could ask the Chairman of the Comité des Connétable, if they have been consulted on proposals to treble the Parish rates as an option in part of the Fiscal Review and if they have, what is their opinion?

The Connétable of St. Ouen:

The Comité des Connétable met with the Minister for Treasury and Resources at its meeting a month ago and the Comité des Connétable is going to be preparing a response.

7.1.2 Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier:

I wonder if the Constable could tell us, in answer to Senator Breckon's question, what the response will consist of? **[Laughter]**

The Connétable of St. Ouen:

Unfortunately, I have to advise the Deputy that the Comité des Connétable does not work that way. I do not decide the response and then tell the Comité what they have to say.

7.1.3 Deputy G.P. Southern of St. Helier:

In their deliberations, does the Chairman of the Constables Committee consider that they will take into consideration the regressive nature of the rates bill for most?

The Connétable of St. Ouen:

I believe that the Connétables, before they make their response, will want to hold Parish meetings for ratepayers, across the Island, to have the opportunity to discuss the proposal.