

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

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Shadow Minister for Government Services Steven Linares has tabled a number of questions on the fire brigade, the prison service and the Customs department for the Government to answer at the meeting of Parliament with starts next week.

Mr Linares will ask Government to state how many of the 16 recommendations from the health and safety audit into the fire brigade carried out by management have now been implemented. He will also want to know how many recruits entering the City Fire Brigade have been sent abroad for induction training and how much this has cost per year. Mr Linares will seek to establish whether the cost of sending new recruits to the UK has been paid for from the existing fire brigade training budget. The Opposition spokesman will ask Government to state whether it is their policy to move the fire brigade to another location and if not will they be refurbishing the existing station.

In relation to the customs department, Mr Linares will want to know whether the Government will be making public the two reports conducted by experts from Customs and Excise in the UK now that negotiations with staff-side have concluded without agreement.

Steven Linares has also tabled a series of questions on the different utilities. Among them, he will ask whether there have been any further negotiations with the Ministry of Defence in relation to the supply of electricity and water. He will also want to know whether there is a target date for the commencement of operations of the new power station and will also raise the issue of power cuts.

In his capacity as Shadow Minister for Culture, Mr Linares will ask whether there was any input by Government Ministers or officials which resulted in the photograph "Equality" being removed from third place in the recent photographic exhibition. He will also want to know how many judges were present at the first preliminary judgement and how many were present in the second final judgement. In relation to the Theatre Royal, he will ask whether Government have had any formal or informal meetings with the owners of the site with a view to purchase the property. He will also want to know whether any further monies have been spent on the Theatre Royal site and if so how much and for what purpose.

On Education matters, Mr Linares has also given notice of questions on supply teachers, St Bernard's School, grants, student loans and the suspension of children from schools.

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