

HERITAGE BILL 2000

**790. Mr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage:**

I refer to the Heritage Bill 2000 that had its second reading in this place under the previous Government in November 2000. Given that it is more than a year since this Government was elected, I ask -

- (1) Will the minister advise us of the status of the draft heritage Bill?
- (2) Why has the Bill been delayed?
- (3) When is it expected that it will be presented to Parliament?

**Dr EDWARDS replied:**

- (1)-(3) I thank the member for the question and for his interest in heritage matters. I have had discussions with the Heritage Council and have had another look at that Bill, in particular at the area of penalties and precincts. I have had discussions with the council about how we should implement the Bill and about what it means. The draft negotiations on the Bill have been back and forth between our offices. My latest request was for my office to put it in a cabinet minute and I anticipate signing that shortly.