

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS, LIVE SHEEP TRADE  
INVESTIGATION

**396. Hon JIM SCOTT to the minister representing the Attorney General:**

Further to my question without notice of 2 April 2004, I refer to complaints made under the Animal Welfare Act 2002 to the police about the loading of sheep onto the livestock ship *Al Kuwait*.

- (1) As the Police Service has advised the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals that it is the investigating body in this matter, will the RSPCA have access to the State Solicitor's Office to assist it in this investigation?
- (2) Will the Government support the RSPCA in its investigation by underwriting the cost of this test case?

**Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Attorney General has provided the following response -

- (1) No.
- (2) The Animal Welfare Act 2002 is administered by the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development. The Director General of the Department of Local Government and Regional Development, as well as RSPCA staff members appointed by the director general, have power to prosecute offences. Therefore, the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development can assist with the answer to question (2).