WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE BY DEPUTY R.J. WARD OF ST. HELIER CENTRAL QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2023 ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 2nd OCTOBER 2023

Question

"Will the Minister advise the estimated subsidy for 2023, in pounds sterling, for the current bus provider?"

Answer

The contract payments from the Government of Jersey to Liberty Bus are paid to ensure that the fares paid by passengers maintained at a low level. Fares are significantly below the break-even level, therefore representing a subsidy to the travelling public.

As outlined in my response to Written Question 164/2023, the bus operator contract is currently in the process of being re-procured, with tender documentation expected to be issued to a shortlist of organisations which have successfully completed a pre-qualification process.

In view of this, the information requested is currently considered commercially sensitive. At this stage, putting the predicted subsidy amount into the public domain is likely to be detrimental to the Government's negotiating position and ultimately to the public interest.