

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIRMAN OF PRIVILEGES AD PROCEDURES COMMITTEE BY
DEPUTY R.G. LE HÉRISSEIER OF ST. SAVIOUR**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 1st APRIL 2008

Question

When will the Committee be deciding whether or not it is proceeding with a Freedom of Information Law?

Answer

On 11th March 2008 in answer to an oral question from Deputy Le Hérissier, I stated “PPC felt it would need to provide the States with compelling evidence that the Code [of Practice on Public Access to Official Information] is not working or could not be improved at lower cost. The Committee does not dispute that the F.O.I. law is desirable. It is currently trying to establish whether it is essential and whether any of the cost identified by the departments are in fact more properly attributable to the implementation of either the Public Records (Jersey) Law 2002 or are existing costs to the current Code of Practice on Public Access to Official Information.”

Administering the Code of Practice on Public Access to Official Information is the responsibility of individual departments and it will take some time for departments to prepare responses to the quite detailed questions asked by PPC about the practical administration of the Code. This information will be collated by the Chief Minister's Department and provided to the Privileges and Procedures Committee by 12th May 2008.

Thereafter the Committee will consider the responses and determine its recommendation to the States.