

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND TECHNICAL SERVICES BY
DEPUTY P.V.F. LE CLAIRE OF ST. HELIER**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 21st OCTOBER 2008

Question

Can the Minister provide, for comparative purposes, updates to the answers tabled by his department on the 11th March 2008 in relation to composting costs for 2008?

Answer

For clarity the original question relating to composting costs was as follows:

In 2007 would the Minister advise –

- (a) how many litres of "Genuine Jersey" soil improver the department sold?
- (b) how much money was derived from these sales and to whom the money was disbursed?
- (c) how much profit or loss each litre of compost sold resulted in or attained?
- (d) what the total expenditure in 2007 for compost operations was, including machinery purchased?
- (e) how these figures were derived?

On revisiting these figures an error in the 2007 figure for compost products sold has been identified. To rectify this for comparative purposes the correct 2007 and 2008 figures are presented below. It should be noted that the 2008 figures are to the end of September.

- (a) During 2007 the Department sold 1,377,000 litres of compost products (Soil Improver & Mulch). The figure quoted in the previous answer was 403,000 litres. It has now been discovered that this figure was factually incorrect. The error occurred due to a change to the recording and accounting treatment for green waste and was not identified when the original 2007 answer was drafted. The error is very much regretted, however the costs were correct and when compared over a three year period, 2006, 2007 and 2008 the cost of producing a litre of soil improver was £0.29, £0.51 and £0.47 respectively.

At the end of September 2008 the Department had sold 1,157,200 litres of Compost products.

- (b) The income generated from product sales in 2007 was £46,423

Income until the end of September 2008 is £40,137. These funds are used to help offset the operational costs of running the Green Waste Composting site.
- (c) This gives a net cost of 51p per litre for 2007 and 47p per litre so far in 2008.
- (d) The operational costs of running the green waste composting site in 2007 were £705,276. For the first 9 months of 2008 the figure is £544,004.
- (e) The profit / loss figure is the operational cost of the green waste composting site divided by the quantity of compost products sold. The base financial figures are from the 2008 and 2007

accounting records and the quantity of products sold is from the Department's own records.