

23.02.28

12 Deputy M. Tadier of the Chair of the States Employment Board regarding the provision of electric pool cars to Government employees (OQ.27/2023)

Given the Government's policy on carbon reduction and sustainable transport, will the chair outline what consideration, if any, is being given to providing electric pool cars for government employees who are currently expected to use their own vehicles as part of their working day?

Deputy K.L. Moore:

The vice-chair will answer this question.

Connétable A.N. Jehan of St. John (Vice-Chair, States Employment Board - rapporteur):

I thank the Deputy for his question. Initial focus has been on our own fleet and so far we have 74 electric vehicles now in that fleet. In time, there may well be a pool of E.V. (electric vehicle) solutions for private cars but this needs to be properly investigated, costed and understood to ensure that we make the best decisions for all vehicle users. Electric bikes have been provided in some departments for some staff to use but clearly they are not suitable for all journeys.

3.12.1 Deputy M. Tadier:

Just to clarify, I am not talking about private members of the public who might be States employees owning their own vehicles. I guess I am asking the question what the logical conclusion would be if everybody who worked for the States took up the Government's policy on sustainable transport and active travel? So, for example, the Chief Minister we know is very keen to use an electric bike and travel by bus. If everybody who works for the States did that but then they are expected to travel between workplaces in their own vehicle, how are they going to do that if they do not have a vehicle? Who is going to provide the vehicle for them to travel in if everyone turned up next week to work by bike or by bus?

The Connétable of St. John:

I thank the Deputy for his question. I can confirm that I arrived in town by bus myself this morning. We do have pool cars at various locations. Currently they are not all electric but, as we continue to review, we will look at whether we need to increase that. With the development of the new government headquarters due for 2024, which will centralise most office-based employees, we are providing more facilities for people to arrive by bike indeed and will be encouraging more people to cycle.

[11:00]

We will be looking at more electric vehicle charging points within the vicinity of the building and have designed out of the need for onsite parking. So as the need increases we will look to see what we need to provide in terms of electric vehicles.