

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
BY DEPUTY M.R. HIGGINS OF ST. HELIER**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2009

Question

Would the Minister complete the following table relating to the number, type and cost of consultants' reports commissioned by the Economic Development Department in each of the years indicated in the table:

Year	Report Topics	Terms of Reference of each report	Date Commissioned	Date received or estimated to be received	Cost of completed reports or estimated cost for those not yet completed
2005					
2006					
2007					
2008					
2009*					

* Year up to 16th February 2009.

Answer

In the time available, it has not been possible to collate all necessary information to provide a complete answer to the question as posed. A complete answer will be provided by 3rd April 2009 and distributed to all States members. In the meantime all EDD Reports that can be found at <http://www.gov.je/statesreports> where Economic Development and other States Departments list details of all reports which are not considered exempt.

As a matter of policy, the Economic Development Department, including Jersey Harbours and Jersey Airport utilises consultants sparingly and only when:

1. Specific areas of technical or commercial expertise are required to develop policy and strategy to achieve the Department's objectives, consistent with the States Strategic Plan and the Economic Development Business Plan that includes the Jersey Harbours and Jersey Airport business plans.
2. Retaining such expertise on a permanent basis as part of the EDD would not represent best value for tax payer's money in the Economic Development Department annual budget.

All consultancy contracts are awarded by a process that is compliant with the appropriate Financial Directions.