

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY SENATOR J.L. PERCHARD
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2010**

Question

Following his written answer to a question from Deputy R.G. Le Hérisier of St. Saviour on 17th November 2009, in which the Chief Minister wrote that the terms on which personal contractual arrangements were terminated were personal and confidential to the parties concerned, does he agree that the tax paying public has a right to know and should be made aware of the cost of terminating the contractual arrangements with any public employee, or contractor and will he, in his capacity as the Chairman of the States Employment Board, undertake not to agree to any future financial settlements with any public employee, or contractor employed by the States that permits a confidential financial settlement?

Answer

Contracts of Employment, and issues which arise from them (for example settlements on termination), are invariably highly personal and therefore should be kept confidential. This represents good practice in the employment field, and especially in a small community such as ours.

Also there are invariably sound commercial and legal reasons why details of settlements with contractors should remain confidential.

Further, the prospect of publicity would make negotiations in these, often difficult, circumstances much more difficult.

I am therefore not able to give the Senator the undertaking he is seeking.