

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2003, BY SENATOR E.P. VIBERT**

Question

- (a) Would the President advise members how the appointment of a Communications Consultant to the Policy and Resources Committee fits in with the policy of spending restraint, which both the Committee and the Finance and Economics Committee are exhorting all other Committees to follow at the present time?
- (b) Would the President advise members –
 - (i) whether the post of Communications Consultant was advertised and, if so, where?
 - (ii) what remuneration is being paid?
 - (iii) what professional qualifications in communications the appointee holds?

Answer

- “(a) The appointment of a communications consultant is being funded from savings made by the Policy and Resources Committee. The Committee has been aware of the need to invest in improving communication and has exercised significant restraint in managing its budget to fund this development. The Committee is therefore doing exactly what is expected of all committees; namely managing its budget wisely in order to provide resources to invest in a high priority.
- (b) (i) The Committee is not employing anyone; therefore, it did not advertise a post. The Committee invited five companies, who have previously supplied or tendered to supply communication support to the States. They submitted proposals against a service specification and the contract was awarded after a competitive process. As such, the process adopted accords fully with the States procedures.
- (ii) The contract is £55,000 for a full year. It was not only the lowest price tendered, but the Committee was convinced that the quality and experience offered best matched its requirements.
- (iii) Katie Le Quesne, who is the consultant, will be well known to many members for the wide range of work she has done for the States and other public bodies in Jersey. She has extensive experience of working with the public and media on the Island. Most recently she has attended a series of courses on extending her knowledge of engaging the public and other stakeholders in a variety of fora.”