

Chief Minister of Jersey

Cyril Le Marquand House
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18th July 2013

Mr M de la Haye
Greffier of the States
States Greffe
Morier House
Halkett Place
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Dear Michael

Resource implications of the States Assembly holding an additional Minister to account

During the review of the draft Regulations to establish a Minister for External Relations undertaken by the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel, a question was raised as to the cost involved in the States Assembly holding an additional Minister to account. In responding to the Panel's report, I said that I would contact you to see if this question might be addressed. The relevant section of text from S.R.9/2013, presented to the States Assembly on 27th June 2013 by the Council of Ministers, is reproduced below.

"The improved accountability that would result from the establishment of a Minister for External Relations may have resource implications for Scrutiny. It might be expected that any such additional cost is within the scope of operational efficiency and so an impact assessment is unnecessary. However, the Chief Minister will write to the Greffier of the States prior to the debate to seek information regarding the costs of scrutinising a Minister and will share the information received with the Panel."

I would be grateful if you could consider the costs to the public of the States Assembly holding a Minister to account, the additional costs that would arise in this instance from the States Assembly holding a new Minister for External Relations to account (noting that there will be no new department and that, in this instance, a Minister would simply replace an Assistant Minister continuing to undertake this function as they have since January 2011), and whether any such additional costs are within the scope of operational efficiencies that could be achieved.

Thank you for your assistance with this question. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Senator Ian Gorst
Chief Minister of Jersey

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Senator I. Gorst
Chief Minister
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31st July 2013

Dear Chief Minister,

Resource implications of the States Assembly holding an additional Minister to account – Minister for External Relations

Thank you for your letter dated 18th July 2013 in which you enquired of the Greffier the additional costs for the States Assembly that might be associated with holding an additional Minister to account.

I have enquired of the Scrutiny Manager whether in her opinion there may be any financial or manpower consequences arising from holding an additional Minister to account. There would naturally be costs associated with the transcription of quarterly meetings with the Minister, and the normal costs surrounding a review, were one to be undertaken, but these can be absorbed within the existing budget. There may of course be an impact on the time of States members involved in Scrutiny which might affect what other reviews they were able to undertake. This is a political matter.

As regards the States Assembly, an additional full Minister could expect to be included on the rota of questions in the Assembly, and the States Greffe would provide the necessary administrative support associated with the asking of questions, together with the QA of ministerial decisions, but again, these can be absorbed within the existing budget.

Yours sincerely

Anne Harris (Mrs)
Deputy Greffier of the States

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