

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND TECHNICAL SERVICES BY
DEPUTY J.G. REED OF ST OUEN**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 19th JUNE 2007

Question

Would the Minister advise the Assembly what the total number of public sector staff vacancies were for the six month periods to 30th June 2005, 31st December 2005, 30th June 2006, 31st December 2006 and 30th May 2007 within his Department?

Of the staff posts transferred to and from the Department during the above periods, how many were actually vacant at the time of transfer?

What funds were saved by Departments from unfilled posts in each period?

How many of the existing vacancies are currently budgeted for and how many vacancies have remained unfilled for a period of 12 months or more?

Answer

For context purposes the total establishment for Transport and Technical Services as at 31st May 2007 was 499.30 FTE with a headcount of 543.

PART 1

“Would the Minister advise the Assembly what the total number of public sector staff vacancies were for the six month periods to 30th June 2005, 31st December 2005, 30th June 2006, 31st December 2006 and 30th May 2007 within his Department?”

TTS	FTE	HEADCOUNT
Vacancies as at 30/06/05	46.87	55
Vacancies as at 31/12/05	35.14	48
Vacancies as at 30/06/06	29.20	43
Vacancies as at 31/12/06	33.82	46
Vacancies as at 30/05/07	39.15	51

PART 2

“Of the staff posts transferred to and from the Department during the above periods, how many were actually vacant at the time of transfer?”

TTS	FTE	HEADCOUNT
Transfer from Planning and Environment	0.75	1
Transfer to Planning and Environment	5	5
Transfer to Government House	1	1
Transfer to Treasury	2	2
Transfer to Jersey Property Holdings	3	3
Transfer to Chief Minister’s Office	1	1

PART 3

“What funds were saved by Departments from unfilled posts in each period?”

TTS does not hold data on delays to recruitment to posts and where vacancies occur they usually have to be

covered by temporary staff, acting-up arrangements or, in the case of manual worker posts, overtime. It is not, therefore, possible to provide an accurate figure in relation to any potential savings directly related to particular vacancies.

However, during the period 2005 to 2007, the Department has undergone a major organisational restructuring which, linked to the implementation of the Fundamental Spending Review and a programme of year-on-year efficiency savings, has achieved a financial saving of £932,850 and a reduction of 27 posts. As part of the re-organisation process each vacancy is closely evaluated and a decision made as to whether it is essential to recruit.

PART 4

“How many of the existing vacancies are currently budgeted for and how many vacancies have remained unfilled for a period of 12 months or more?”

TTS	FTE	HEADCOUNT
Budgeted vacancies as at 31/05/07	27.26	28

TTS	FTE	HEADCOUNT
Vacancies unfilled for a period of 12 months or more	11.88	12

Within the Department 11.88 posts have been vacant for more than a year. The reasons for the delay in filling these posts are as follows -

- 2 posts reflect the extreme difficulty in recruiting senior professional staff within specialist disciplines.
- 3 Trainee posts will be filled shortly as part of succession planning.
- 6.88 are subject to the continuing organisational restructuring programme.

N.B. All figures within this report exclude seasonal posts.