

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY T.M. PITMAN OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 7th JUNE 2011**

Question

Will the Chief Minister clarify whether or not the reported 'golden handshakes' amounting to approximately £800,000 were paid/are being paid to two senior civil servants; what the sums are in relation to each individual; from which fund they are to be paid and under what justification?

Further still, how were these sums determined and who ultimately made the decision to pay these sums?

Answer

I am not in a position to comment on the nature of the terms of any individual settlements. Any settlements which have been entered into have taken proper account of each individual's terms and conditions of employment.

A compromise agreement is essentially private in nature and an employee ought to be able to expect it to be treated confidentially. The total severance payments made to all States employees will be published in the 2011 States Accounts under new Accounting rules but the individuals will not be specifically named.

I will not comment on the specific amounts other than to advise Members that the figure quoted is totally incorrect and the level of payment made to one individual was significantly less than that reported.

The payments have been met from departmental budgets.

The sums were derived from contractual obligations or, through negotiated settlement with the individual concerned.

I can comment on individual cases to the extent that in the case of the previous Chief Officer of Health and Social Services, the decision was ultimately taken by the Chief Executive under powers delegated by the States Employment Board. For the Chief Executive, the decision was taken by the States Employment Board.