QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE HARBOURS AND AIRPORT COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 7th OCTOBER 2003, BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN.

Question 1

Over the summer considerable diving activity has taken place within the harbour to lay fibre optic cables. Would the President advise members –

(a)   the cost of these works?

(b)   how many tenders were received to do the work and from whom? and,

(c)   the price of each tender?

Answer

(a)   The work carried out by divers during the summer forms part of a project to provide a secure communications ring around St Helier Harbour. Once the network is completed, savings in excess of £80,000 per annum are anticipated. The cost of the diving is one part of a larger scheme and it would take considerable administration time to extract these costs from the past time sheets as all the work between the pier heads was undertaken by harbour staff; a rough estimate could be made, but could not be substantiated for accuracy.

(b)   No tenders were received for this work, as Jersey Harbours have the only Health and Safety Executive qualified dive team on the Island. To bring in a dive team from the UK was considered unnecessary and expensive.

(c)   Not applicable given the answer to (b).

Question 2

Would the President advise members whether or not alternative methods of making the necessary communications link on the sea bed across the Victoria and Albert Pier Heads were investigated, such as microwave links?

Answer

Yes. Alternative methods were considered and successful tests were carried out in 2002 using microwave links between Maritime House and Port Control; indeed Jersey Harbours already use microwave and radio links for transmission of data and will continue to do so, but the fibre optic link was considered to be the most resilient, satisfactory and secure.

Question 3

Would the President advise members whether all existing IT equipment using the fibre optic link will be compatible with other IT equipment across other States departments, once the installation is complete, and, if not, explain the reasons why?

Answer

Yes, all our systems run off the same IT platforms.