

STATES OF JERSEY

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COURT AND CASE COSTS: INVESTIGATION

**Lodged au Greffe on 20th July 2004
by Deputy A. Breckon of St. Saviour**

STATES GREFFE

PROPOSITION

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion –

- (a) to agree that the Finance and Economics Committee should appoint appropriately qualified independent consultants to investigate and report to the Committee on the following matters –
 - (i) the reasons for the increase in Court and case costs since 1998, and the manner in which such costs are incurred, accounted for and managed at the present time;
 - (ii) the legal fees paid by the States to Mourant du Feu and Jeune (Mourants) for their services in representing the States in the litigation involving Les Pas Holdings Limited;
- (b) to request the Finance and Economics Committee to make funding available of up to £50,000 to fund the commissioning of the report;
- (c) to charge the Finance and Economics Committee to present the report to the States as soon as it is received.

DEPUTY A. BRECKON OF ST. SAVIOUR

REPORT

My attention was drawn to increasing or unforeseen costs on reading the Finance and Economic Committee's report R.C.14/2004 "General Reserve: Grant of Additional Funds to 31st December 2004". This shows –

1st March 2004	Finance and Economics Committee Court and Case Costs	£3,312,247
1st March 2004	Home Affairs Committee Court and Case Costs	£190,379

This led me to seek further information from the States Treasury and on request the following information was supplied –

Court and Case Costs:	1998	£2,760,310
	1999	£2,413,525
	2000	£2,606,098
	2001	£4,895,363
	2002	£6,153,558
	2003	£5,979,026

I believe the above figures are worth further investigation (or scrutiny) and I would recommend that this is undertaken by independent consultants.

Les Pas legal fees

Members will know that the States has paid over £1.5 million to Mourant du Feu and Jeune (Mourants) and I am seeking the same consultants to review these charges.

Financial and manpower implications

I believe that a sum of £50,000 should be made available for this report.

It is also possible that considerable future savings could be identified.

There are no manpower implications.