

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO H.M. ATTORNEY GENERAL
BY DEPUTY M.R. HIGGINS OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2016**

Question

Will H.M. Attorney General advise members how many U.K. barristers have been employed by the Law Officers' Department either to give advice or take action on its behalf each year since 2005 to 2015, detailing which chambers they were from, their expertise, the cost and in what areas they advised or represented the Island?

Answer

Financial directions require that expenditure transaction documents are retained for six years. Therefore, it is not possible to provide this information for the years 2005-2010.

The information sought is not held in a form which is easily retrievable to answer the question.

To answer the Deputy's question, limiting it to data from August 2010 to December 2015, there would need to be a manual search of the Department's payments to 3,267 different organisations over this period.

It is estimated that the cost to the public of answering this question will be substantial and this would be disproportionately resource intensive.

The Deputy is therefore requested to reconsider or potentially narrow the question, in order to reduce the significant costs to the public that would be incurred by answering it in its current form.