

**REPLY BY THE CHIEF MINISTER****TO A QUESTION ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE  
RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY L C QUERPEL****Question**

1. As you are aware, the purpose of the Financial Transformation Programme is to transform departmental delivery of services and identify efficiency savings wherever possible. With this in mind, I ask the following questions:

a) Can you tell me if there are any areas within the Policy Council, that staff, or council members, consider to be areas where transformation of delivery of services and efficiency savings could be made, but for whatever reason, these areas are considered to be 'untouchable' by staff and council members?

**Answer**

The Policy Council has one budgetary allocation which has not been considered as part of its Financial Transformation Programme portfolio; that of Overseas Aid Grant and Disaster Emergency Relief.

**Question**

b) If the answer is 'yes' can you give me a list of these 'untouchable' areas and reasons why they are considered to be 'untouchable'?

**Answer**

The Policy Council's Overseas Aid Grant and Disaster Emergency Relief Budget of £2.7 million (+RPIX) per annum is set by extant States resolution and on that basis, is not part of the Policy Council's Financial Transformation portfolio. The States of Deliberation recently considered this budgetary provision in January 2012 (Billet d'État I of 2012) and agreed that Guernsey should maintain its current level of contribution *"with a view to reconsidering it once there is a higher degree of certainty over corporate taxation and when the fiscal position improves, or within 5 years, whichever is sooner."*

**Question**

2. The Treasury and Resources department saved £5,400 by printing the 2014 Budget in black and white instead of the usual colour version. With this in mind, I ask the following questions:

a) How much did the Policy Council spend on printing leaflets, reports and literature in general, in colour in 2012?

**Answer**

In 2012, the Policy Council spent £31,800 on printing key documentation such as the Guernsey "Facts and Figures Booklet" and "A Guide to the States Strategic Plan". £23,000 of that expenditure is attributable to the States Budget and Accounts which were printed in colour at that time.

Significant efficiency savings have been made to the Policy Council's printing budget as part of its FTP savings and the use of colour in printing is carefully considered and monitored. When deciding whether a publication should appear in colour, the following relevant factors are taken into account in order to achieve both best value for money and the most effective end product, including: the content of the publication; whether any data in the publication is easier to interpret in colour and cannot be interpreted in black and white (in charts for example); its audience and intended purpose.

**Question**

b) How much would it have cost to print these same documents in black and white?

**Answer**

As highlighted in your question, significant savings (approximately up to half the cost per publication in some cases) can be made in the printing costs for some States documents such as the Budget and Accounts when printed in black and white instead of colour.

All print work is commissioned by the Policy Council in accordance with the States of Guernsey's Rules for Financial and Resource Management. These rules require three verbal quotes to be provided against an agreed technical specification for any printing work under £10,000 and three written quotes are required if the value is over £10,000.

In order to more accurately answer this question, a different technical specification would have to be prepared for each publication printed in colour in 2012 and put to each supplier for costing. This would entail significant time of officers and possibly incur additional costs from the businesses involved, which would be disproportionate given the Policy Council's acknowledgement above of the significant savings to be made by publishing in black and white instead of colour wherever possible. The Policy Council therefore considers that all opportunities are currently being taken to save costs through printing in black and white rather than colour, where this is appropriate.

**Question**

3. In October 2009, the Scrutiny Committee produced a report entitled 'Investigating Vandalism'. In this report, the committee set out recommendations for the Policy Council to consider in relation to vandalism in the island. Can you give me an update on the progress the Policy Council has made regarding these recommendations?

**Answer**

In accordance with the States resolution XVI 2010 (Billet d' État XXIII of 2010), the Policy Council noted the Scrutiny Committee's report of 15th September, 2010, entitled "*Investigating Vandalism*" which appeared as Appendix C to that Report and also noted the monitoring report including Departments' initial responses to the recommendations, as set out in Appendix A to that Report.

Particular to the Policy Council, were the recommendations that:

(a) the Social Policy Group:

***"... develop an improvement plan that links existing corporate strategies, addresses social inclusion and safety issues and sets performance indicators to monitor performance (See paragraph 4.21)".***

and

(b) *“To consider extending the role of the Douzaines to help monitor the condition of public spaces (see paragraph 10.13)”.*

The four current priorities of the Social Policy Group are:

- Children and Young People’s Plan
- Supported Living and Ageing Well Strategy
- Working together with the Voluntary and Charitable Sector
- Equalities and Rights Programme

As the Social Policy Group informed the Scrutiny Committee in 2010, the Social Policy Plan links existing corporate strategies to address social inclusion. The issue of vandalism has not been specifically identified by the Social Policy Plan but issues of social inclusion are by their very nature at the heart of social policy and therefore are encompassed in all the work of the Policy Council’s sub group.

With regard to extending the role of the Douzaines to include site monitoring, the Policy Council’s former Douzaine Liaison Group consulted with all the Douzaines on these recommendations in 2010-11, following which it was agreed that individual Douzaine would decide how best to monitor and report on vandalism in their parishes. Any acts of vandalism would be managed through the introduction of a simple scheme whereby each Douzaines would report any acts of vandalism in its parish to relevant contacts within the States of Guernsey (as well as the utility providers).

During the next Douzaine Liaison Group meeting in January 2014, the Policy Council will discuss with the Douzaines their experience of vandalism in their parishes in order to establish whether further action is required.

**Date of Receipt of Question:** 17 December 2013

**Last Date of Reply:** 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013