

**QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2003,
BY DEPUTY G.C.L. BAUDAINS OF ST. CLEMENT**

Question 1

Would the President inform members –

- (a) of the total cost to date of the British Geological Survey's investigation of Jersey's water supplies?
- (b) of the approximate percentage of those costs attributable to water resources as opposed to water quality/pollution? and,
- (c) quantify approximately how many Departmental resources have been absorbed on water resources issues.

Answer

1. (a) The costs of consultancy work carried out by the British Geological Survey for the Committee for the last three years is as follows –

2001 £9,100

2002 £9,866

2003 £13,500.

(The increase in costs for 2003 is to provide increased advice with regard to forthcoming legislation, to help develop data evaluation techniques in order to assist the Section in its new role as regulator and to take a more direct role in the investigation of groundwater pollution incidents under the provisions of the Water Pollution (Jersey) Law).

- (b) It is quite difficult to give an exact figure for the allocation of these costs to water resources as opposed to water quality/pollution issues, as this can depend on the exact nature of the work that arises on a day to day basis and some of the work overlaps both water resource and water pollution issues. However, I am advised that approximately 50% of these figures relate purely to water resources issues.
- (c) The Water Resources Section was set up on 1st January 1998, in order to provide protection for the aquatic environment of the Island from pollution and to monitor its water resources. The Section currently has a complement of 9 staff. The work of the Section is largely concerned with the implementation and administration of the Water Pollution (Jersey) Law 2000, drinking water quality regulation, waste management regulation and related issues. However, the Section does play a vital role in the management of water resources of the Island, including the monitoring of groundwater levels and the development of legislation. I am advised that no more than 10% of the daily workload of the Section is directly concerned with water resource management issues at this time. However, this could change significantly if the draft Water Resources Law is approved and implemented.

Question 2

As the consultation period for the Draft Water Resources Law has finished would the President advise members which bodies/organisations the Committee consulted with and the number of submissions that were made?

Answer

The following persons, bodies and organisations have been consulted with regard to the provisions of the draft Water Resources (Jersey) Law –

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- All States members
- the Health and Social Services Committee
- the Economic Development Committee
- t the Education, Sport and Culture Committee
- the Public Services Department
- the Jersey New Waterworks Company Ltd.
- the Jersey Farmers' Union
 - members of the Water Resources Steering Group
 - representatives of the Well Drillers
 - representatives of the Water Diviners
- the Chamber of Commerce
- the Jersey Brewery
- Golf Courses
- the Jersey Milk Marketing Board
- the British Geological Survey (BGS).

To date, 14 submissions have been received by the Committee. One consultee, namely the Jersey Farmers' Union, has asked for additional time to respond. Officers will now consider these submissions in detail, and this may include follow up meetings with respondents, before reporting back to the Committee in due course.