

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE HARBOURS AND AIRPORT COMMITTEE
BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 26th OCTOBER 2004

Questions

1. From 5th to 8th October 2004, Jersey hosted the British Port Administrators' Conference. Would the President advise members –
 - (a) when the original invitation to hold the conference in Jersey was sent to the British Port Administrators?
 - (b) of the total cost of hosting the Conference?
 - (c) of the cost of Jersey Harbours hosting a dinner at the Jersey Pottery? and,
 - (d) of the remuneration paid to the main co-ordinator of the Conference?
2. Would the President inform members of the Committee's policy on re-employing former staff members after retirement?
3. Would the President inform members of the Committee's policy on entertainment given that the Committee does not return unspent amounts of its budget to the Treasury?

Answer

1. I am not aware of an organisation called the 'British Port Administrators' nor was I aware that they held a conference in Jersey on the same dates as that of the British Ports Association.

It is a pleasure to confirm that this latter conference was a great success with a record number of delegates (132) attending, mostly Chief and senior executives of significant British Ports, many with partners. All of the delegates with whom I communicated spoke very highly of Jersey and its hospitality and will continue be tremendous ambassadors for our Island for a long time to come. This has been confirmed by numerous letters and emails received post the event.

The original invitation to hold the conference in Jersey was made at the end of the last conference held in October 2003 in Aberdeen.

Jersey Harbours' budget for hosting the conference is £7,500.00, against which can be set in excess of £3,000.00 received in airport dues plus commission on duty free sales which may have been made by the delegates on departure.

In addition Condor Ferries hosted a Vin d'Honneur on the Tuesday evening, as did the Jersey Conference Bureau on the Wednesday. I am not aware of cost of these events.

The dinner hosted by Jersey Harbours at the Jersey Pottery was one of the highlights of the three days and we were honoured by the presence of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and Lady Cheshire. The cost of the dinner, included in the overall budget figure, was £5,646.00.

A company called Expolog, who were contracted by the British Ports' Association, carried out the organisation of the conference. Therefore the issue of remuneration is a matter between them.

However, I am pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to Captain Brian Nibbs, the retired Chief Executive of Jersey Harbours, who provided the essential local co-ordination, including the social and

partners programmes, with a high degree of efficiency and effectiveness. I do not believe that the conference would have been the success that it undoubtedly was without the involvement of Captain Nibbs, supported actively by Mrs. Nibbs, both of whom carried out their duties on a voluntary basis.

It is essential to Jersey that Jersey Harbours takes a full part in events such as this as it assists to maintain an aligned vision with our British Islands counterparts, setting and meeting common professional and international definitions and standards of best practice.

2. Committee policy on re-employment is in accordance with States policy. It is quite a complex policy and it depends on whether or not a person left the service for another post elsewhere, retired before the normal retirement age, retired due to ill-health and so on. It would be vital for the Deputy to seek further expert advice from the States Human Resources department if he would like to fully understand the policy.
3. There is no obvious or logical link between an entertainment policy and the financial return made to the Treasury.

However, the Committee's entertainment policy is based on the States Personnel Code of Conduct and includes the following guidelines for expenditure on entertainment and hospitality –

‘Hospitality may be considered appropriate in circumstances where forging good relationships with customers will benefit the organisation in monetary and goodwill terms. A rule of thumb is that hospitality should be an expense of an organisation supplying a service and therefore such expenditure should be restricted to our benefactors (customers, community organisations etc.) Occasionally, it may benefit a long-term relationship with a supplier to share hospitality but this is the exception rather than the rule.

Expenditure on hospitality or entertaining for staff is at the discretion of management.

All hospitality expenditure should be within budgetary limits set at the beginning of the financial year. Any excessive expenditure will be scrutinized in detail.’

The issue of financial returns to the Treasury is an entirely separate matter. The Deputy will know from his time as a member of the Harbours and Airport Committee that Jersey Harbours has in the past contributed significant sums to the Treasury. For example, over the eight years to 2002 £5.4 million was paid.

No financial return is being paid this year as the revenue surplus is being reinvested in essential capital expenditure such as repairing the concrete degradation on the New North Quay and maintaining other old maritime structures.