

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 20th JANUARY 2004, BY
DEPUTY P.N. TROY OF ST. BRELADE**

Question

Would the President inform members of the number of third party reports or consultancy documents commissioned in 2003 by States Committees and their Departments, costing in excess of £2,000, and the total cost to the public sector, showing a total for each Committee's expenditure?

Answer

The information that Deputy Troy has requested is not currently available and would take some time to compile. I have been able to obtain information in respect of the Policy and Resources Committee and its department, and can advise members that six reports costing in excess of £2,000 were commissioned from third parties or consultants during 2003, at a total combined cost to the Committee of £47,446.

If the Deputy wishes to establish the total cost and number of reports or consultancy documents commissioned in 2003 by all States Committees and departments, then this information can be obtained. However, I should point out that the collection and analysis of this information could be a very time-consuming task for other States departments, and will involve the allocation of a significant amount of staff time.

In seeking this information from other Committees, it would be necessary to be more specific as to what is meant by a 'third party' or 'consultant'. For example, would such a definition include medical consultants, Her Majesty's Inspectors, and education advisers? Due account would also need to be made for reports that were commissioned in 2003 and which haven't yet been completed, and presumably in these cases it would be considered sufficient to provide an estimate of the final cost.