

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE BY
DEPUTY R.G. LE HÉRISSIER OF ST. SAVIOUR**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 9th OCTOBER 2007

Question

Is the Committee undertaking any studies presently or in the next financial year on staffing costs in specific States departments? If so, in which departments?

Answer

The Public Accounts Committee reviews the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General and will hold public hearings regarding those which it considers to be of public interest.

Reports to date have considered the costs of sickness of staff in the public sector but detailed reports on staffing costs in a particular department have not yet been considered. The main emphasis so far has been the financial framework of the States.

The Public Accounts Committee considers staffing costs to be an important part of the efficiency, economy and effectiveness of operation of a department and would look at these in the context of the services offered. Moreover, staff costs comprise around 50 per cent of the expenditure of the States and will, therefore, form an important focus for the work of the Committee.

The programme for the Comptroller and Auditor General in 2008 is still under discussion but the concerns of the Deputy will be taken in account when this is discussed with the Public Accounts Committee.