

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 1st MAY 2007

Question

- a) Would the Chief Minister inform members –
- (i) what proportion of the £2.5 million required to fund the 2007 States employees' pay award his department has had to absorb?
 - (ii) what measures have been taken to meet this additional cost?
 - (iii) whether such actions amount to service cuts or delays in certain activities, and
- b) Would the Chief Minister place these in context of measures already taken in response to the need for efficiency savings for 2007?

Answer

- a) (i) £81,100.
- (ii) The department will absorb the additional cost by close control of staff turnover and vacancies.
- (iii) As the department's work is entirely dependent on the work of its staff, this will inevitably lead to some delays in some activities.
- b) The department was required to make £30,900 efficiency savings in 2007. These are being implemented by improving working practices and focusing all work on the key priorities set out in the Strategic Plan. The more important context is that the department has already achieved efficiency savings of £1.64 million in 2005 and 2006. These have been delivered as part of the change programme, a major part of which has been the creation of corporate HR and IT functions. £676,000 of these savings were attributed directly to the Corporate Management Board budget which represents a 6 per cent reduction in funding.