

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR TREASURY AND RESOURCES
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2007

Question 1

Would the Chief Minister agree to release to members the information regarding emerging spending pressures that was recently discussed at the Council of Ministers and, if not, when will this data be released into the public domain?

Answer

I am sure that the Chief Minister will agree to keep all members informed of spending pressures as and when those pressures are more clearly identified and prioritised.

The Council of Ministers is currently working on the background to the 2008 Business Plan and developing proposals for spending limits which are due to be lodged in July as part of that Plan. The Council has developed a structured and detailed timetable for the process and has discussed and agreed this at a high level with the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel and the Chairmen's Panel. The Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel has also received regular briefings as the background and proposals have been developed.

The next stage of this briefing is scheduled for the week commencing 19 March when the Council will present its proposals for spending limits by department to the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel. The Council will also then release details of departments' proposed spending limits to the individual Scrutiny Panels.

The Council will also be providing a presentation to all States members after 19 March incorporating the background to the process and the principles behind the proposed spending limits that have been developed.

States members need to be aware that the proposals could still change as they are considered further by Ministers departments and the individual Scrutiny Panels, but a further presentation of the final proposals will, if necessary be held immediately prior to lodging in July.