

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

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2008

Question

1. Will the Minister advise members, now that he has had time to study the Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel's Report SR3/2008, which of the key findings and recommendations he accepts?

Answer

I will respond formally to SR3/2008, which was published on 29 January 2008, within the six week period allotted under scrutiny protocol, at which time a detailed indication of my views will be given.

Question

2. Notwithstanding his commitment to a 3-year moratorium, will the Minister assure members that he will not bring a new proposition for the sale of Jersey Telecom (JT) to the Assembly unless and until revised powers for the JCRA have been put in place, and the issue of separation has been resolved?

Answer

The powers of the Regulator are currently the subject of an independent review, and I do not intend to prejudge the outcomes of that process. I reiterate my previous commitment that I will only propose the sale of Jersey Telecom if it is in the Island's best interests. In taking that decision I will consider whether the structure of the company and regulatory framework are such that they will ensure the provision of high quality resilient telecommunications services at the lowest cost to the consumer.

Question

3. Will the Minister give members a breakdown of the £500,000 costs incurred in relation to the proposal to sell JT?

Answer

Advisory fees totalling £393,500 have been paid to a consortium of financial, legal and technical consultants appointed following a competitive tendering and commercial negotiation exercise. In addition there are unquantified costs of Treasury staff time and those of the scrutiny panel and its advisor.

Question

4. Will the Minister extend his commitment to a 3-year moratorium on the sale of JT to government holdings in other utilities?

Answer

The Treasury department has no current plans for the sale of any of the States utility companies and no plans to develop any such proposals within a period of three years.