

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND TECHNICAL SERVICES
BY DEPUTY M. TADIER OF ST. BRELADE
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 24th MARCH 2009**

Question

In the light of public concern over fees paid to consultants, would the Minister inform the Assembly of the cost of -

- a) the Atkins Report into the post-Buncefield situation regarding the fuel farm and the associated risks?
- b) the work by Hopkins Architects Ltd. reviewing and revising the design of the outside of the Energy from Waste plant?

giving sufficient details of the work undertaken to provide a clear indication that this was money well spent?

Answer

(a) The cost of employing Atkins Limited to conduct a quantitative risk assessment of the Jersey Fuel and Gas storage facilities at La Collette, including the risk of a Vapour Cloud Explosion, such as that witnessed at Buncefield, and a specific assessment related to the proposed Energy from Waste plant, was £56,000. The reports produced enabled the La Collette Hazard Review Group, who commissioned the work, to establish the tolerable levels of risk for occupation of the area in land use planning terms, and therefore was critical both to confirming the acceptability of current land uses and that of proposed developments. The information has been used to inform supplementary planning guidance for the Minister of Planning and Environment and is being used to inform revised emergency and evacuation procedures on site. Atkins are leading consultants in this field and contributed to the production of UK guidance on hazards and land-use planning. The investment required to produce this report was good value given the benefits in understanding of the risks from the fuel and gas storage facility that it has provided.

(b) The cost incurred thus far in employing Hopkins Architects Limited in reviewing and revising the design of the Energy from Waste Plant has been £283,119. The work has entailed reviewing the Department's outline planning application building envelope design, revising this design to obtain outline planning consent, developing the design into a functional architectural specification for issue with the Energy from Waste facility tender, reviewing the bidders designs against this specification, revising and improving the design in cooperation with the preferred bidder, and submitting a finalised design for the submission of Reserved Matters. Under a condition of the Reserved Matters Hopkins Architects Limited are to be retained to advise the Department on the acceptability of the delivered design against the Reserved Matters architectural criteria as set out within the Contract. The cost of this final stage of commission is estimated to be between £50,000 and £100,000. The investment in appointing Hopkins Architects Limited, who are an architect of international repute, to produce a high quality building envelope design and to ensure it is implemented, is considered good value for money, given that the building will be in a sensitive location and will be operational for 25 years.