

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 8th JUNE 2010**

Question

“Would the Chief Minister provide details of the original cost of setting up the Chief Minister’s department in 2005, breaking down into areas such as –

Original building works costs
Original decorations costs
Original furnishings costs
Original soft furnishing costs

Would the Chief Minister advise what alterations, if any, there have been in his Department since he took over the role in 2008 and provide a detailed breakdown as appropriate?”

Answer

From the Deputy’s questions during my recent ‘questions without notice’ I am assuming that this question relates to accommodation alterations relating to the Department’s Policy and International Divisions within Cyril Le Marquand House.

The significant set up costs for the Department in 2005 was the works undertaken on the 9th Floor of Cyril Le Marquand House to provide the Council of Ministers with appropriate meeting facilities. Building works were undertaken to refurbish the existing facilities including, provision of new windows and doors, replacement of mechanical & electrical systems, creation of new toilets, decoration and carpeting. I am advised that these building works cost c. £113,000. In addition, furniture was purchased (including a meeting table and 20 chairs) at a cost of c £22,000.

In 2008, before I took office, accommodation changes were made to provide fit for purpose reception facilities for the Chief Minister and co-locate the department’s support team. The cost of this was £36,500.

As I stated in my response to a question from the Deputy on 25th May this year, I have not had my office or that of the Chief Executive refurbished.

Alterations that have been made since I took office have been those necessary to meet the operational requirements of the department, in particular accommodating the CSR team and relocating the Emergency Planning Office from Police within the department’s existing offices at Cyril le Marquand House. This work has focused on working existing floor space harder, including converting under-utilised space to better use.

The main accommodation change made since I took the role of Chief Minister has been the conversion of the former caretaker’s flat and an unused plant room into office space along with other associated changes to increase space utilisation. The cost of this was £75,200, and the cost breakdown is as follows:

Building works	£58,300	
Fixtures and fittings	£7,100	
Furniture	£4,300	
Fees (architects, planning etc.)		£3,500
Removals	£2,000	
Total	£75,200	

These accommodation changes have been both necessary to provide appropriate working conditions for those located within the building and have also led to significant improvements in the utilisation of space within the department's floor space.