

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. MARTIN
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 20th APRIL 2010**

Question

“On 3rd November 2009, in answer to an oral question regarding the appointment of a panel to investigate the suspension of a consultant gynaecologist, the Chief Minister stated that the panel was ready to start, that its investigation would be concluded within a month, that exact costs would be dependent on the number of days needed to conduct a review and that the cost was expected to be in the region of £40,000. Will the Chief Minister inform members why the report has not yet been presented to the States, state when will it be presented and inform members whether the cost will still be in the region of £40,000?”

Answer

The Review Panel started work the week ending 6th November and read over 1000 pages of documentation and conducted a number of interviews by the end of that month. Further reading and follow up work was completed before the end of December and a preliminary report drafted by mid January. From mid December to mid February two key individuals were taking extended holidays consecutively, however, by mid February, the summary report that will be made available to all States Members had been drafted. It was necessary for this document to be subject to legal advice and checks as it will put information and views about the actions of States employees into the public domain and could subject individuals to public debate and criticism. The States Employment Board owes a duty of care to its employees and has to seek a balance between this duty and that to the States of openness and accountability.

The States Employment Board has received a final draft of both a detailed and summary report, and subject to final legal checks it is anticipated that the summary will be released to States Members in early May.

The cost to date of £47,000 is a little above the original estimate.