WRITTEN QUESTION TO H.M. ATTORNEY GENERAL BY DEPUTY M.R. HIGGINS OF ST. HELIER ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 26th JUNE 2012

Question

Would the Attorney General advise members of the actual total legal costs incurred in taking the UK Government to court on the Low Value Consignment Relief issue and explain which law firms were involved, whether he will publish the itemised bills they provided for their services to the States and, if he is not willing to do so, will he advise members why not?"

Answer

It is not yet possible to give a final figure for the total costs incurred by the States as a result of the LVCR judicial review proceedings. This is because HMRC has still not presented its bill of costs, of which Jersey and Guernsey were each ordered to pay 25%.

The Jersey legal representation was undertaken by solicitors PWC Legal who instructed Leading Counsel from Brick Court Chambers and Junior Counsel from Gray's Inn Tax Chambers. The final sum payable by the States of Jersey for their services throughout totals £656,370.67. This is net of contributions from the fulfilment industry.

With reference to the last part of the question, itemised bills would not generally be published as they contain information that may be commercially sensitive to the firms and individuals involved.