

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SPORT AND  
CULTURE BY DEPUTY S.S.P.A. POWER OF ST. BRELADE  
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 20th MARCH 2012**

**Question**

In relation to the 2 replacement vehicles for the Elizabeth Castle ferry service purchased by the Jersey Heritage Trust in the Summer of 2008 at a cost of £500,000 would the Minister provide the following information to show the operating costs of these two machines in the four calendar years 2008 to the end of 2011:

- 1: operating costs for 2008 to 2011 including staff, fuel and insurance:
- 2: mechanical repairs and winter overhauls for 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011;
- 3: the cost of re-fitting the machines in the winter of 2011 with hydrostatic drive systems?

**Answer**

The Jersey Heritage Trust (JHT) has provided the following information to answer the Deputy's question.

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Operating Costs	46,960.57	3,198.65	3,353.85	5,896.94
Fuel	5,446.53	3,077.76	4,530.77	6,807.88
Staff	70,456.27	69,135.16	64,202.26	75,260.33
Insurance	4,897.00	7,345.70	5,729.10	5,729.10
	<b>127,760.37</b>	<b>82,757.27</b>	<b>77,815.98</b>	<b>93,694.25</b>
Mechanical repairs & winter overhaul	<b>78,929.58</b>	<b>153,423.79</b>	<b>121,892.62</b>	<b>256,019.83*</b>
Castle admissions revenue	<b>£280,166</b>	<b>£298,498</b>	<b>£355,437</b>	<b>£404,596</b>

\* Includes £80,000 cost of introducing foam into the hulls of both vehicles to meet regulatory requirements.

The budgeted cost for re-fitting one castle ferry with a hydrostatic drive system in 2012 is £90,000.

The Jersey Heritage Trust has advised that its survey work shows more than 70% of visitors take the ferry at least in one direction to access Elizabeth Castle. The ferries are viewed as a positive experience by visitors and The Trust believes that revenues and visitor satisfaction would drop

dramatically without this form of transport. This is the reason for the investment in their purchase and maintenance.

The Jersey Heritage Trust wished to stress that this aspect of their operation is the subject of the same careful scrutiny as its other activities. As part of this process, the Trustees recently conducted a review of Elizabeth Castle transport to consider possible alternatives. They did not find a viable alternative and therefore concluded they should invest in the conversion of the ferries in order to reduce running costs and increase reliability.