

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
BY DEPUTY R.G. LE HÉRISSIER OF ST. SAVIOUR
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2013**

Question

What has been the staff turnover at the Channel Islands Competition Regulatory Authority in the last year to date and will the Minister cite the specific vacancies that have arisen with the reasons?

Answer

The Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities (CICRA) comprise the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority and the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority (formerly known as the Office of Utility Regulation).

Both authorities are led by a joint Board, which is independent of the States of Jersey (and the States of Guernsey). Whilst there is a Service Level Agreement in place in respect of the grant payable to the JCRA to enforce the Competition (Jersey) Law 2005 and to advise the States on competition policy, it would not be appropriate or indeed possible to get involved in operational matters such as staffing. CICRA has however provided the following information in answer to the question.

There are eleven permanent posts within CICRA: four based in Guernsey and seven based in Jersey. In the past 12 months, four staff members have left the organisation.

Recruitment to replace the departing staff members has not been undertaken on a like-for-like basis, given the changing requirements of the organisation (such as the reduction in postal regulation activities in both Jersey and Guernsey). CICRA has recruited to one position and the individual is now in post. Recruitment for a second position - Telecoms Regulation Manager in Jersey - is currently underway. Taking account of both its functions and budgetary constraints, CICRA may consider further recruitment activities in future.

Given the statutory and contractual obligations applying to CICRA, it would be considered inappropriate to disclose the reasons for the individual staff vacancies that have arisen.

The Deputy may also recall that he asked questions of the Minister for Treasury and Resources on the 8th October regarding CICRA. During this dialogue the Deputy stated that there are no telecommunication officers at the JCRA at the moment.

I would reiterate the Minister for Treasury and Resources' said that CICRA does have staff with telecommunications experience and even if that were not the case the Authority would bring in experts with the necessary experience when required.