

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
BY DEPUTY G.J. TRUSCOTT OF ST. BRELADE
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 2nd JULY 2019**

Question

Will the Minister advise whether there are any plans in place to enhance the amenity and conservation value of the Railway Walk in St. Brelade; and will the Minister also outline the current maintenance regime for the Walk and indicate how much is currently spent annually on such maintenance?

Answer

The maintenance contract for the Railway Walk runs out on the 1st October 2019 and is to be significantly revised and updated for retendering at the end of this financial year. The revised specification will be the result of a detailed review of all operations, in conjunction with colleagues in the Environment Department and will be aimed at maintaining and enhancing the high wildlife value of the Railway Walk.

Private sector contractors under the supervision of GHE currently manage the area as follows:

- mowing a one metre strip alongside the walk
- maintaining the unmown grasses areas to encourage species diversity – these are cut twice a year in July and October
- the management of wooded areas and shrubs under the direction of the Government's Arboricultural officer
- stacking dead timber to create habitats and shelter (hibernaculas / dead hedging) as vital refuges for wildlife

As to cost, because this contract is due to go out to tender shortly it would be inadvisable to reveal its value. This would put the Government at significant disadvantage and not be in line with best procurement practice