

21.07.19

Deputy R.J. Ward of St. Helier will ask the following question of the Minister for Infrastructure –

“Further to the response to Written Question 336/2021, will the Minister explain why additional funding was agreed for LibertyBus, given it made a return to its parent company of £2,092,933 in 2019; and, in light of the fact that accounts for 2020 are not yet available, what assurance can he give members that funding provided in 2020 and 2021 was not used to make such returns to the parent company?” WQ.172/2021

The following response was provided in writing in accordance with Standing Order 63(9) as the oral question was not asked before the end of the time allowed for Oral Questions:

Unfortunately, the Deputy is mistaken. LibertyBus did not made a return to its parent company of over £2.09 million in 2019. This figure relates to retained funds over six operational years. The operating surplus for the period was £428,917 or 4% of total income.

During 2020, additional support funding was made available to cover the shortfall in fare income as a direct consequence of the Covid-19 outbreak. This ensured that an appropriate level of service could continue to be operated throughout the period when Government emergency restrictions were in place, and is subject to a “cap and collar” arrangement to ensure that any profit made or loss incurred is contained within a modest range.