

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO
THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM, SPORT AND CULTURE
BY DEPUTY R.S. KOVACS OF ST. SAVIOUR
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 26th JUNE 2023
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 3rd JULY 2023**

Question

“Further to his comments in the Jersey Evening Post dated 27th April 2023 regarding the Cost of Living Strategy Group and the Inflation Strategy Group, will the Minister advise –

- (a) the number of times, and on what dates, each group has met this year;
- (b) the members of each group and their attendance record;
- (c) whether minutes are kept and, if so, where they are published, if at all; and
- (d) if minutes are not kept or not published, why not?”

Answer

The Cost of Living Strategy Group replaces and builds on the work and remit of the previous Inflation Strategy Group formed in 2020.

- a) The group has met on the following dates in 2023;
 - 6th February,
 - 7th March,
 - 6th April,
 - 25th May,
 - 22nd June
- b) Membership of the group and the number of meetings attended their year is as follows:
 - Deputy Kirsten Morel, Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture (Chair) – 5 meetings
 - Deputy Kristina Moore, Chief Minister – 4 meetings
 - Deputy Elaine Millar, Minister for Social Security – 5 meetings
 - Deputy Ian Gorst, Minister for Treasury and Exchequer – 4 meetings

Additionally, other Ministers and Assistant Ministers have attended specific meetings to speak to agenda items relating to matters within their portfolio.

- c) Minutes of the Cost of Living Strategy Group are kept for internal record keeping purposes and to record actions. These minutes are not published.
- d) While the Council of Ministers is committed to increasing transparency, it remains the case that some information is not published. Minutes of the group are not published in order to maintain a confidential safe space that provides for frank, candid and open discussions between Ministers, including considering sensitive matters around economic policy and the development of fiscal policy. Ministers and officers must be at liberty to express their views, without being unduly influenced by the publication of minutes, and introducing an observed element to the decision-making process could have an impact on the content and nature of discussions. This is the same treatment applied to Part B Council of Minister’s minutes.