

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY T.A. COLES OF ST. HELIER SOUTH
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2023
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2023**

Question

“Further to the response provided to [Written Question 203/2022](#) will the Chief Minister provide the shipping costs relating to all chemical and microbiological analysis not carried out on Island, over the last five years?”

Answer

As the Deputy is aware, the response to WQ 203/2022 provided certain information regarding the cost of chemical and microbiological analysis by departments over a five-year period in instances where it wasn't possible for the analysis to be undertaken on Island. It was noted that the figures provided in that response excluded shipping costs, however.

The task of identifying shipping costs specifically for all chemical and microbiological analysis is not straightforward. The main providers of this service are used across the Government of Jersey for numerous purposes. In seeking to respond to this question, officers have extracted preliminary data in respect of the service providers involved, but further analysis would be required to identify specific transactions which relate to the shipping of chemical and microbiological materials. The preliminary data does not of itself give any broad indication in this respect. Further exploration of this preliminary data would likely require cross-referencing with the relevant courier in the case of each individual transaction where a chemical or microbiological material were transported.

Whilst work will continue to seek to provide as much relevant information to the Deputy as is possible, practical constraints could be prohibitive. Officers would be pleased to meet the Deputy in person to discuss and further explain the difficulties of extracting the specific data to address the question. A further public response could then be provided following that meeting.