

19-21 Broad Street | St Helier
Jersey | JE2 4WE

23rd August 2023

Dear Deputy Feltham,

Consultant and Travel Spending

Given your comments on Ministerial expenses for the period July 2022 to June 2023, I will focus my response on reporting of spend on consultants for the period July 2022-December 2022.

This expenditure is reported as part of the P-59-2019 requirements under which the Chief Minister agrees to report every 6-months on the cost of consultants, but it also includes spend on interims, fixed-term employees, and agency staff across the Government of Jersey.

This is an extensive data collation and reporting process, providing details of departments, suppliers and contractors which are extracted from the finance ledger (in this case JD Edwards and also interrogating Supply Jersey). This part of the process, which includes the initial data extraction, data verification and cleansing is completed within T&E initially with verification by Departmental budget holders.

Due to the granularity of reporting, this process is done separately and in addition to the statutory accounts production.

In addition to the financial data details of spend, the P59-2019 requires additional information to be provided which will be held in a range of formats, but largely manually maintained and therefore has to be provided by Departments and their respective managers. This latter element of the report is a labour-intensive manual process. These data points included:

- Mapping travel costs to consultant/ contractor work
- Confirming if a structured needs analysis has been undertaken.
- The contract end date and if there is/ has been an extension to the contract.
- Post consultation analysis has been conducted.
- The production of a report.
- Publication of a report.

Under normal circumstances, coordination and collation of all the data points and the final report, is a significant and challenging piece of work to ensure the data is complete and of appropriate quality. However, over the past 6 months that challenge has been exacerbated by the requirement to support Government's additional priorities such as the recovery from 3 major incidents, the HCS financial recovery plan and the implementation of the Connect system, departments and Treasury have needed to reprioritise and divert resources. The outcome of such prioritisation has therefore resulted in delays in other non-critical operational activities.

Nonetheless, we continue to support the transparency agenda and the publication of relevant reports. Over the past couple of years, we have introduced improvements to processes, for

example introducing elements of automation where possible, and we continue to identify and delivery improvements in the data quality, reporting format, and quality assurance processes.

In respect of the P-59-2019 report for the second half of 2022, the aim is to finalise, the small number of outstanding manually provided departmental details, in the next couple of weeks for the Chief Minister to publish the report in September.

I apologise for the delays and the team will be looking to return to more timely reporting over the coming year.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Bell', written in a cursive style.

Richard Bell, Treasurer of the States of Jersey

cc: Chief Minister

Minister for Treasury and Resources