

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO RULE 14 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

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| From | President, Committee <i>for</i> Employment & Social Security |
| To | Deputy Christopher Le Tissier |
| Subject | Travel costs – October 2020 to March 2024 |
| Date of response | 19 June 2024 |

Question 1:

In respect of each month during the period October 2020 to March 2024 how many flights paid for by the States did each political member of the Committee for Employment & Social Security take and to which destinations and what was the class of travel for each trip & member?

Response:

In March 2022, Deputy Lindsay de Sausmarez, Vice-President of the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security ('the Committee') flew to Alderney (standard class).

No other members of the Committee have travelled off-island on Committee business during the period October 2020 to March 2024.

Question 2:

In relation to question 1, what were the departure and return dates in respect of each member's trip from Guernsey, identifying which if any members extended their stay beyond States business for private/personal reasons?

Response:

The flight taken by Deputy de Sausmarez departed on 7 March 2022 and returned on 8 March 2022. The stay was not extended for private/personal reasons.

Question 3:

What were the dates of the event/meeting?

Response:

Deputy de Sausmarez met with representatives of the States of Alderney and the Alderney Chamber of Commerce during the afternoon of 7 March 2022 in respect of secondary pensions, ahead of a public meeting on the same topic in the evening.

Question 4:

The same questions 1, 2 & 3 applies, how many Civil Servants and/or advisors accompanied political members on each trip to include departure/return/meeting/events dates?

Response:

Two civil servants accompanied Deputy Le Sausmarez, travelling on the same dates for the same meeting.

Question 5:

Which hotels paid for by the States did each political member of the Committee for Employment & Social Security stay and for which nights during October 2020 – March 2024.

Response:

Deputy de Sausmarez stayed at La Ville Hotel.

Question 6:

What was the total cost of air fares, hotels and any other expenditure, including any standard day allowances in relation to the out of the island trips representing the States for each trip taken during the period October 2020 – March 2024 by each political member.

Response:

The total cost of Deputy de Sausmarez's trip was £274.00.

Question 7:

What 'day allowances' and other expenditure did each member receive for each trip during the period October 2020-March 2024?

Response:

A day allowance was not claimed.

Question 8:

The same questions 5, 6 & 7 above applies to Civil Servants and/or advisors accompanying political members on each trip October 2020-March 2024

Response:

The total cost of the trip for the two Civil Servants that accompanied Deputy de Sausmarez was £548.00. A day allowance was not claimed by either Civil Servant.

Question 9:

In relation to previous Rule 6 (now numbered 11) questions on each members travel and expenditure during 2011 Deputy Trott as Chief Minister wrote '*in the spirit of moving towards more open and transparent Government, it is intended that information of this type will be provided as a matter of course in the next administration*'. As this didn't happen questions were repeated in January 2015 addressed to Deputy Le Tocq as Chief Minister, when replying he stated 'The Policy Council has no objection to the general publication of Deputies travel expenditure when representing the island outside the Bailiwick on a regular basis and that an appropriate frequency would be annual publication. As Deputy Trott & Deputy Le Tocq both as Chief Ministers at various times sought publishing States members travel details as above, and neither have pursued this happening, will the President of the Committee for Employment & Social Security give assurances in the interest of transparency and accountability an annual detailed report covering the above will be published in the public domain, highlighting each States members travel details, costs and the reason for the trip?

Response:

The President of the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security cannot give such an assurance in relation to all States Members as the Committee has no powers to insist on such an outcome. The Committee certainly has no issue over being transparent over its own members' travel costs, but the wider issue is probably a matter for the Policy & Resources Committee to consider as it has a resourcing implication.

Question 10:

Would you agree that changes need to be made and that in the interest of transparency and accountability States members trips away on States business should be circulated to all Deputies within a reasonable time after the trip?

Response:

The Committee *for* Employment & Social Security is supportive of measures to increase transparency and accountability, but notes that there would be a resource implication involved in preparing such reports. If trips are only undertaken by States Members for essential government business, and costs are well controlled, there should be no need for such reporting. If there is a suggestion that travel is regularly taking place which is either unnecessary, or excessively expensive, then perhaps such a requirement could be justified. The answers to these questions by all States committees should reveal whether there is any evidence of such excesses. Certainly, the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security would strongly refute that it has any record of unnecessary or excessively expensive travel.