

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

<b>From</b>	President, States' Assembly & Constitution Committee
<b>To</b>	Deputy Christopher Le Tissier
<b>Subject</b>	Travel costs – October 2020 to March 2024
<b>Date of Response</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> 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 States Assembly & Constitution Committee take and to which destinations and what was the class of travel for each trip & member?**

**Response:**

In March 2023 the Committee's President, Deputy Meerveld, travelled to Jersey by air. As you know, there is only one class of air travel to Jersey.

No other Members of the Committee have travelled off-island on Committee business.

**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:**

Deputy Meerveld departed Guernsey on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 and returned on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023. He did not extend his stay for private/personal reasons.

**Question 3:**

**What were the dates of the event/meeting?**

**Response:**

The purpose of the trip was to interview, jointly with Jersey, candidates for the role of Pan-Island Commissioner for Standards. Interviews took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023.

**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:**

One officer accompanied Deputy Meerveld, travelling on the same dates, and also participated in the interviews.

**Question 5:**

**Which hotels paid for by the States did each political member of the States Assembly & Constitution Committee stay and for which nights during October 2020 – March 2024?**

**Response:**

Deputy Meerveld stayed in the Pomme D'Or Hotel for the nights of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023.

**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 this one trip, the only one taken by any Member of the Committee during the period in question, was £419.46. It should be noted that the Committee has no budget for travel and that, as the trip in question related to parliamentary business, all costs were covered by the parliamentary budget.

**Question 7:**

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

**Response:**

No such allowances were received, or claimed, during the period in question.

**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 cost of the trip for the officer who accompanied Deputy Meerveld, and also stayed in the Pomme D'Or Hotel on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> March, was £419.46. No subsistence allowance was paid or claimed.

**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 States Assembly & Constitution Committee 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 Committee obviously favours the principle of transparency regarding all States' expenditure, however incurred, but the cost of such transparency has to be weighed against both the public's interest in such reports and the resources deployed in preparing them, which may be wholly disproportionate. As a small Committee with no dedicated budget, it would not be affected by such a requirement, neither is it in a position to give the assurances requested.

**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 is not aware of any evidence to support the assertion that "changes need to be made". Moreover, in the event that such evidence should emerge, it considers that there may be other ways of addressing any issues that may exist. The Committee's view is that its political colleagues are sufficiently conscientious to ensure that only necessary travel is undertaken.