

**Response to a Question Pursuant to Rule 14
of The Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees**

Subject: Travel

States' Member: Deputy C J Le Tissier

Date received: 11th June 2024

Date acknowledged: 12th June 2024

Date of reply: 26th June 2024

Questions

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 Overseas Aid & Development Commission take and to which destinations and what was the class of travel for each trip & member?
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?
3. What were the dates of the event/meeting?
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?
5. Which hotels paid for by the States did each political member of the Overseas Aid & Development Commission stay and for which nights during October 2020 – March 2024.
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.
7. What 'day allowances and other expenditure did each member receive for each trip during the period October 2020-March 2024?

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
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 Overseas Aid & Development Commission 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?
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

1. In respect of Overseas Aid & Development Commission business, no flights paid for by the States were taken by the political member, or indeed non-political members, of the Overseas Aid & Development Commission during the period October 2020 to March 2024.
2. This question is not applicable.
3. This question is not applicable.
4. This question is not applicable.
5. This question is not applicable.
6. This question is not applicable.
7. This question is not applicable.
8. This question is not applicable.

9. The President of the Overseas Aid & Development Commission can give assurances that in the interest of transparency and accountability, if the States of Guernsey were to publish an annual detailed report covering the above in the public domain, highlighting States members travel details, costs and the reason for the trip, when on States business, the Commission's details should be included. Although he acknowledges that for the Commission, in comparison to possibly some other Committees, this would be a relatively straightforward exercise and require minimal staff resources.
10. The President of the Overseas Aid & Development Commission agrees 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 if the States of Guernsey as a whole were to introduce such a policy. Although he again acknowledges that for the Commission, in comparison to possibly some other Committees, this would be a relatively straightforward exercise and require minimal staff resources.

Deputy Chris Blin
President
Overseas Aid & Development Commission