



Access to Public Information Request

Date of receipt: 02 May 2019

Date of response: 24 May 2019

Air links review tender process

Request for information:

We note that in the policy letter relating to the review of strategic air and sea links infrastructure it states “The Committee has ascertained through a recent tender process that the work required to consider the technical, regulatory, environmental and economic aspects of extending the airport runway beyond the current boundary to 1,700-1,800m would cost up to £700,000 ”.

The details of this tender have not been made public, yet the cost was a focus of much of the debate in the States meeting on 26 April. The public has a right to know the detail behind this figure. It is not commercially sensitive as it has already been quoted publicly in the policy statement and by deputies during the debate. On that basis please provide answers to the following questions:

1. How many tender submissions were there in relation to the technical, regulatory, environmental and economic aspects of extending the airport runway beyond the current boundary?
2. What was the complete and detailed scope of the tenders?
3. What was the fee range quoted in the tenders?
4. What was the breakdown of scope components and their respective fees that made up the £700,000?
5. Please release the tender submissions to the public.

The taxpayer has a right to know the answers to these questions, and you have a clear obligation to produce them.

Response:

Following the tender process for the two 'Part A' reports by PwC that comprise the review commissioned by the Policy & Resources Committee, and the receipt of those reports, two of the bidders who were part of the initial tender process were asked to provide costs should further 'Part B' reports be commissioned by the Policy & Resources Committee on behalf of the States of Guernsey.

Both of the responses received were based on a scope of work that specifically reflected the analysis and recommendations by PwC in the 'Part A' reports. The two responses indicated that that further work on the air links recommendations, should the States of Guernsey choose to do so, could be undertaken within a budget of £700,000.

The States of Guernsey has decided not to commission further work on the air links strategic infrastructure as part of the Policy & Resources Committee's review, but it has directed further work to be undertaken on sea links strategic infrastructure and contingency planning. On that basis, publishing the tender responses would be detrimental to the States of Guernsey's commercial position in commissioning further work, and therefore detrimental to the Guernsey taxpayer.

The Policy & Resources Committee notes that the President of the Committee *for* Economic Development advised during the States debate that the necessary work could be undertaken at less cost, and if it chooses to undertake further work on the business case for extending an airport runway then the Committee *for* Economic Development is free to do so using its existing budget.

For that reason the Policy & Resources Committee is not releasing the tenders on the basis of the following exception set out in the States of Guernsey's Code of Practice on Access to Public Information:

- 2.3 Effective management and operations of the public service - information whose disclosure could lead to improper gain or advantage or would prejudice the competitive position of a Committee or other public body or authority; negotiations or the effective conduct of commercial or contractual activities; and information whose disclosure would prejudice the commercial interests of the States.