



## Access to Public Information Request

**Date of receipt:** 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Date of response:** 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019

### Use of helicopters for the transfer of patients to the UK

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**Request:**

In the API request received in the email dated 12 June 2019, request was made for the following information:

1. What was the total amount the States of Guernsey health department spent on the use of helicopters in 2018? Please include all costs involved, those being the cost from the provider of the helicopter. Any fees charged by the airport / allied services (out of hours feeling etc.), the costs of any staff that accompany these flights, the costs of these staff returning to the island, the costs of any further transport in the e.g. ambulance transfer from where the helicopter lands to the local hospital. Please also include any costs for transporting essential relatives who were not able to fly with the helicopter. There is no need to identify any suppliers by name.
2. For helicopter flights in 2018 and 2019 ideally on an individual basis, (please order in a manner that does not identify which flight is which - possibly in order of total time taken), how long between the clinical decision to fly the patient did the patient arrive in the UK hospital (or in the case of transfers from Alderney, arrive Alderney, depart Alderney, arrive Guernsey etc) . Please do not give actual times in order to maintain confidentiality, just total times taken. If you are able to break the total time down, e.g. Decision made to fly: 00:00 helicopter formally requested; 00:50 Helicopter arrived in island. 02:45 Helicopter departed island 03:45 Helicopter arrived in UK 04:45 Patient arrived in hospital 05:00 Total time taken 5 hours. (Times above are from time decision made and not actual time eg midnight)

**Response:**

A total of 13 Guernsey-UK flights were made throughout 2018 and up until 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019. All flights took place on the same day that the request was made to Her Majesty's Coast Guard (HMCG). Further detail on the specific timings of requests and flight times is not held by the States of Guernsey – this information will need to be obtained directly from HMCG by emailing [ukarcc@hmcg.gov.uk](mailto:ukarcc@hmcg.gov.uk).

A total of 6 Alderney – Guernsey flights were made throughout 2018 and up until 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The Alderney Coast Guard were used for these transfers. Out of six transfers, four were made on the same day of the request; one was made the next day (within 4 hours of the request) as the request came in late in the evening; and the time of request for the sixth transfer was not recorded. Further detail on the specific timings of requests and flight times is not held by the States of Guernsey – this information will need to be obtained directly from the Alderney Coast Guard.

The total costs associated with a helicopter transfers in 2018 are as follows:

<b>Cost type</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Helicopter Transfers	£99,002.94
Ambulance Transfers	£1,762.00
Staff Transfers/Accommodation etc.	£5,285.27
Airport Extension Fees	£25,822.40
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£131,872.61</b>

Please note that transfers are paid for by the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security, not the Committee *for* Health & Social Care.