

**REPLY BY THE CHIEF MINISTER
TO A QUESTION ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY MARY LOWE**

Question 1

Have any external or internal reports been produced for your Department Board/Policy Council since SAP went live?

Answer

Yes.

Question 2

If so, how many?

Answer

The Policy Council has not commissioned any external reports but has received one internal report from the Central Services Director which was considered on 13 May 2013. This report focuses on progress in introducing SAP across the States rather than looking specifically at Policy Councils experience. In this respect as the Policy Council is a very small unit with very few operational functions the impact of SAP has been much less than in other departments. In addition although not a report, the Policy Council has considered and agreed responses to Rule 6 questions on SAP from Deputy Gillson which are of course already in the public domain.

Question 3

Would you provide a copy of the latest internal report?

Answer

Yes, given the nature and contents of this particular report the Policy Council is prepared to provide a copy which is attached to this response. As you will be aware Section 18A of the Code of Conduct for Members of the States of Deliberation does not allow for the disclosure of internal reports to the Policy Council to third parties unless by resolution of the Policy Council. The Policy Council has considered this matter, taking into account the principles in the Code of Practice to Access to Public Information agreed by the States in July, and has decided that the publication of this report would not harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion on this occasion. In publishing this report the Policy Council would like to clarify that internal reports are not all prepared on the basis that sooner or later they would be disclosed to the public. If they were they would be unnecessarily sterile and constrained because the authors may be reluctant to express opinions, ideas or make suggestions which could be of real value to the Department or Committee in decision making; for fear that when published, out of context, their contribution may be misinterpreted or misunderstood. Such an approach would undermine good governance. It is for these reasons that the Policy Council recommended

the inclusion of exception 2.4 in Part 2 of the Code of Practice for Access to Public Information to protect the frankness and candour of internal advice.

Question 4 .

Would you provide a copy of the latest external report?

Answer

The Policy Council has not commissioned an external report.

Date of Receipt of the Question: 9th August 2013

Date of Reply: 13th August 2013