

**REPLY BY THE MINISTER OF THE TREASURY AND
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO QUESTIONS ASKED
PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
BY DEPUTY LESTER QUERIPEL**

Question 1

As you are aware, the purpose of the Financial Transformation Programme is to transform departmental delivery of services and identify efficiency savings wherever possible. With this in mind:

- a) *Are there any areas within Treasury and Resources that the department consider to be 'no go areas' in relation to the FTP?*

Answer

Our Department is fully supportive of the Financial Transformation Programme and its aims. As such, the only area where we might consider something as a 'no go area' would be if it would result in the non-delivery of an essential service.

- b) *If the answer to the above is 'yes' then are you able to provide me with a list of these 'untouchable' areas and an explanation please as to why they are considered 'untouchable'?*

Answer

No such areas have been identified within the Treasury and Resources Department.

Question 2

Credit must be given to your department for printing the 2014 Budget in black and white, instead of the usual colour version: thereby saving the taxpayer £5400. Your department certainly seems to be leading by example on the issue of 'colour versus black and white'. Therefore:

- a) *Will your department be printing literature in black and white, as much as possible, from now on, in an attempt to save taxpayers money?*

Answer

The Department is always conscious of trying to deliver value for money in everything it does. When making decisions about printing, other factors in addition to cost should also be taken into account. When considering whether to print material, a decision is made whether to print in one colour (such as black on white paper or any other colour combination), two colours or four colours (full colour). When weighing up these factors and choosing the

printing method, the Department considers content, audience and purpose to achieve best value for money for the most effective end product.

- b) *Will your department be putting pressure on other departments to print as much literature as possible in black and white instead of colour, in an attempt to save taxpayers money?*

Answer

The Treasury and Resources Department does not seek to micro manage the spending of other Departments. Decisions such as this will be a matter for each Department's Board and/or management team but clearly we encourage and support all Department's saving taxpayer's money wherever it is practical to do so.

Question 3

In October 2009 the Scrutiny Committee produced a report entitled 'Investigating Vandalism'. In this report the committee set out recommendations for all States departments to consider. Are you able to please give me an update on the progress your department has made regarding these recommendations?

Answer

The Department's States Property Services (SPS) section has responsibility for over 140 buildings and 160 other structures and land parcels, the majority of which are open to the public. As such, vandalism is a matter of both concern and expense to the Department. As many measures as possible are incorporated into the design and maintenance of these buildings to try and control the effects of crimes against these properties, which include "soft targets" for vandals, such as public conveniences and kiosks, which are often left unattended.

SPS has undertaken a number of initiatives to tackle vandalism. These include:

- Working with the Crime Reduction Panel of Guernsey Police to reduce vandalism at kiosks. For example, anti-climbing paint has been applied at some kiosks to prevent grip and to stain hands when touched;
- Introducing different specifications when refurbishing toilet blocks, using materials which can be easily wiped over to remove graffiti and using panels, doors and partitions which can be more easily and cheaply replaced when damaged;
- Working proactively with the Crime Reduction Officer, the Community Policing Section of the Guernsey Police and Crimestoppers.

These and other measures are meeting with success, both in terms of reducing the number and cost of incidents, as the table overleaf demonstrates:

Vandalism to Public Conveniences					
Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
No of Incidents	115	41	30	31	19
Value	£17,574	£7,365	£6,022	£6,007	£7,161
Vandalism to Kiosks					
Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
No of Incidents	2	6	2	2	1
Value	£263	£2,675	£285	£517	£60

Within the context of the above, there were three recommendations within the 2009 Scrutiny Committee report that were specific to SPS.

The first was to issue policy guidance to all Departments with responsibilities for property on how to tackle criminal damage. Policy guidance for the avoidance of vandalism is to be included in the Estates Management Directives which are to be issued under the provisions of the States Rules for Financial and Resource Management and which the Department anticipates will be issued for consultation in 2014. Whilst SPS has had insufficient resources to be able to issue such guidance before now, it has in the interim continued to hold its Property Workshops on a quarterly basis, when information on all aspects of managing and maintaining the States' property portfolio is shared amongst attendees invited from all Departments. The workshops allow dissemination of up-to-date working practices and procedures covering aspects of property management and maintenance, including how to manage and reduce vandalism to properties.

The second recommendation was to maintain and monitor a central log of all Departments' incidents and outcomes and monitoring the frequency and nature of occurrences. The Department has awaited the implementation of the new Property Management module (Plant Maintenance) within the new SAP system, which it is anticipated will collate the various types of maintenance work that departments have to undertake to their properties, and it is hoped to refine to include a category for vandalism. This will enable departments to contribute their own data to such a log and for the States to hold an overview.

The third recommendation was to take a proactive lead in risk assessments and management, referring to the Crime Prevention Panel for particular advice. SPS is involved in advising on various building and open space design and procurement projects which include as standard addressing issues relating to vandalism prevention. These include wipe clean surfaces in building areas accessible by the general public, using polycarbonate instead of glass in smaller window apertures and carrying out detailed design to avoid "dead" areas of a building

where groups might congregate without being observed. The Crime Reduction Officer has also advised on a number of specific incidents over the last year and, as I have indicated above, SPS works not just with him, but also the Community Policing team and Crimestoppers. The benefits have been evidenced in the reduced number of incidents of vandalism that have been seen at public toilets and kiosks. The aforementioned Property Workshops also enable the Department to work proactively and collaboratively with colleagues throughout the States on such matters.

Question 4

Guernsey, as we all know, imports an extraordinary amount of foodstuffs into the island on a weekly basis. We cannot possibly expect to continue importing such volumes for a plethora of reasons: one of the many reasons being the increasing worldwide shortage of grains and wheat. Another being the tremendous amount of packaging used to contain the foodstuffs that local traders then have to dispose of. Therefore, we need to give serious consideration to becoming more self sufficient. With this uppermost in my mind, do Treasury and Resources have any intention of introducing 'financial packages' for Guernsey growers, to encourage them to produce more of our own food for local consumption?

Answer

This Department considers that any requirement for financial packages for Guernsey growers would be a matter for the Commerce and Employment Department. All incorporated companies already benefit from 0% income tax.

Date of Receipt of the Question: 29th December 2013

Date of Reply: 10th January 2014