

**REPLY BY THE CHIEF MINISTER OF THE POLICY COUNCIL TO QUESTIONS
ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
BY DEPUTY LAURIE QUERIPEL**

Question 1

Was a detailed business case presented to the Policy Council setting out the value and benefits that a new Chief Information Officers role might bring to the States and what savings are likely to be achieved?

Answer

No, but the decision of the Policy Council to agree to the creation of the post of Chief Information Officer was reached having considered a report from the Chief Executive Officer setting out the reasons why he needed this post in the organisation. In supporting this initiative the Policy Council recognised that the CEO required specific support, skills and expertise to enable him to develop and implement much needed Public Service Transformation, a task that he was clearly set when appointed. The submission to Policy Council did not indicate what savings were likely to be achieved for the very simple reason that this post is key to developing and implementing the opportunities and architecture that technology can provide towards future effective and efficient delivery of services to the people of Guernsey. This will lead to significant savings long-term. It is not possible to quantify what those savings will be at this juncture.

Question 2

If so was this information accompanied by an analysis from the Treasury and Resources Department?

Answer

No. It would have been inappropriate at that stage in the process. The Policy Council is no different to any other States Committee insofar as once it had agreed to the principle of creating the post, a case was then made to Treasury and Resources for funding.

Question 3

If the answer is yes to either of these questions can deputies now have access to this information and further do you agree that it would have been good practise to give deputies prior notice of this appointment and early access to this information?

Answer

The Policy Council recognises, in hindsight, that given the media interest shown in this matter it would have been prudent to inform States Members before releasing the post, and apologises for not having done so.

Question 4

Is the Policy Council of the opinion that there is more or less political oversight of senior staff appointments today than there was before 2004 when the Civil Service Board, comprised partly of States members, was in operation?

Answer

The Policy Council is satisfied with the current level of political oversight and arrangements whereby the responsibility for determining the requirement for new or replacement posts rests with the Board of the employing Department. The Policy Council would not be in favour of reversion to the previous bureaucratic regime whereby the creation of new posts (senior or otherwise) had to be sanctioned by a central political body such as the former Civil Service Board.

Date of Receipt of the Question: 28th July 2014

Date of Reply: 8th August 2014