

**REPLY BY THE MINISTER OF  
THE COMMERCE AND EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT  
TO A QUESTION ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE  
RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY M LOWE**

**Question**

1. *In respect of each month during the periods May 2012-December 2012 and January 2013-December 2013 & January 2014-December 2014*
  - a) *How many flights paid for by the States did the political members of Commerce & Employment take?*
  - b) *To which destinations did the political members of Commerce & Employment travel on those flights?*
  - c) *What were the departure and return dates in respect of each trip from Guernsey?*
2. *Which hotels paid for by the States did the political members of Commerce & Employment stay and for which nights during 2012 (from May 1 only), 2013 and 2014*
3. *What is the total cost of air fares, hotels and any other expenditure, including any standard day allowances in relation to the out of the island trips representing the States during 2012 (from May 1 only), 2013 and 2014*
4. *What is the total staff cost during the periods 2012 (from May 1 only), 2013 and 2014 of air fares, hotels and any other expenditure involved including any standard day allowances when accompanying, or joining the political members of Commerce & Employment when travelling out of the island representing the States?*

**Answer**

All of the above requested information is set out in the appended table. Commerce and Employment would like to stress that for both Political and officer off-island engagements every effort is made to combine a series of different meetings on the say day or day(s) thus minimising cost and maximising engagement and benefit. In relation to Ministerial appointments relating to C&E's mandate the Department has regularly benefited from scheduling meetings to coincide with that External Relations business, thus reducing cost and making efficient use of time.

**Question**

5. *Would you agree to publish travelling expenditure as a minimum annually and that in future such information will be made public by the end of January each year?*

**Answer**

Commerce and Employment Department has no objection to the publication of this information on an annual basis though does question the value in terms of time, cost and benefit of having to record this information from across the department as it serves no other purpose. Commerce and Employment have a policy of only travelling where it is essential or where there is significant added value in doing so. Commerce and Employment is conscious that travelling expenditure is taxpayers money and therefore makes judgements and decisions accordingly.

Total administrative cost for preparation of this response: £300

**Date of Receipt of the Question:** 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015

**Date of Reply:** 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015