

**REPLY BY THE POLICY COUNCIL
TO QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY LOWE**

- 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 Ministers and Deputy Chief Minister as members of the Policy Council take?*
 - b) *To which destinations did the Ministers and Deputy Chief Minister as members of the Policy Council 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 Ministers and Deputy Chief Minister as members of the Policy Council 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 period 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 Ministers/Deputy Chief Minister as members of the Policy Council when travelling out of the island representing the States?*

Answers

The information requested is available in the response from the External Relations Group, which of course is the sub-group of Policy Council responsible for this part of the Policy Council's mandate therefore, as such, there has been no further travel outside of the Bailiwick by Ministers as members of the Policy Council.

- 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

The External Relations Group has published an annual overview of activity since January 2013 which provides the annuals costs of off-island engagement, including the costs for: travel; accommodation; and supporting officers.

The Policy Council has no objection to the general publication of Deputies travel expenditure when representing the island outside the Bailiwick on a regular basis and that an appropriate frequency would be annual publication. Such a publication scheme should operate in accordance with the principles set out in the Policy for Access to Public Information and associated code of practice. The Policy Council notes that the collation of this data in the format set out in the appended table is significantly time consuming and agree that work should continue on making the collation, review and publication of this sort of information less resource intensive.

The total administrative cost for the preparation of this response: negligible

Date of receipt of the question: 8 January 2015

Date of reply: 27 January 2015