

2025.11.25

3.6 Deputy M.B. Andrews of St. Helier North of the Chief Minister regarding expenditure savings made within the Cabinet Office (OQ.256/2025):

Further to the adoption of P.8/2024, will the Chief Minister advise the amount of expenditure savings made to date within the Cabinet Office?

Deputy L.J. Farnham of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter (The Chief Minister):

To date the Cabinet Office has saved over £3.6 million in total. These savings have been achieved largely through reductions in staff, the external recruitment freeze, the decision not to backfill posts of staff who left the department and a reduction in external consultants. On a like-for-like comparison, Cabinet Office has reduced by 32.6 full-time equivalent staff to a new total of 174; that is a 16 per cent reduction.

3.6.1 Deputy M.B. Andrews:

Can the Chief Minister confirm whether there will be future savings and, if so, will that be made in the forthcoming Government budget?

Deputy L.J. Farnham:

Yes, the future savings planned for the forthcoming Budget I believe are £1.6 million and, to date, the department has £1.3 million underspend.

3.6.2 Deputy I. Gardiner of St. Helier North:

Would the Chief Minister advise that the Communication Unit that was previously at the Cabinet Office was separated and the expenditure moved from the Cabinet Office into the department expenditures?

Deputy L.J. Farnham:

The Communications Department is still listed as part of the Cabinet Office, although the department has reduced by 11 staff.

3.6.3 Deputy I. Gardiner:

Can the Minister confirm if the 11 staff left the Government or now they are counted as the communication officers within the departments like Education, Health and others?

Deputy L.J. Farnham:

The 11 that left were through redundancy; 7 voluntary and 4 compulsory. It is a net reduction of 11; they have not been redistributed.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

My ...

The Bailiff:

You have had your 2 questions.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

No, my question was that from 11 people, are some of them now working as communication officers? I did not get the answer to my question.

Deputy L.J. Farnham:

Apologies, I thought I did answer it. Of the 11 reduction, all were redundancies and they were not redistributed.