

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY M.R. HIGGINS OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 29th MAY 2012**

Question

Will the Chief Minister undertake to publish from the date he was appointed and from now on, the following information and, if not, why not?

- (a) Details of the gifts, hospitality and expenses register for himself, his Deputy and Assistant Chief Ministers;
- (b) Details of his, his Deputy and Assistant Chief Ministers' external meetings in an official capacity, including video-conferences, stating on which dates they met and the purposes of these meetings?

Answer

The Code of Conduct for Ministers and the Human Resources Code of Conduct provide guidance for Ministers and Civil Servants about receiving gifts and hospitality. As a result, the Department maintains a gifts and hospitality register in which entries are made of gifts and hospitality received by Ministers, Assistant Ministers and officers of the Chief Minister's Department. This register is available for inspection on request. The Chief Minister is proposing that this information is published annually but this has yet to be considered by the Council of Ministers.

The requirement to publish details of meetings is not currently contained in the Code of Conduct for Ministers. As I have previously stated, this Code is being reviewed and will consider including the Deputy's request, however it should be pointed out that this will require additional resources to provide for such disclosures.