

Consultancy Culture Exposed

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The extent of government's use of consultants was exposed in a multi page written answer (No 13) to a question from Speaker Rodan in January's Tynwald.

Almost £12 million expenditure was declared in employing over 80 of them, many from off-Island.

One startling fact is that the Chief secretary's Office and DED together spends £450,000 per annum on PR consultants, Lanson Communications.

However this may not be the complete overall picture, as the definition of consultant may well have been narrowly interpreted.

For example it was revealed only a month ago that Tri-X Childcare Limited (a UK company), is contracted until the end of March, by the Department of Social Care, on behalf of the Safeguarding Children Board, at a cost of £112,000. Yet there is no mention of this at all in the answer.

Chief Minister Allan Bell in the earlier Q& A session had spoken at length about the need to change the culture within government.

A good starting point may well be to reduce the dependency on consultants, after all government already employs about 2150 civil servants.