

Cabinet – 17 September 2015 – Response to Question not reached

13.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Major Contracts

Question: “Several sections of the EQIA for the Concessionary Travel Contractor are incomplete – including ‘Xs’ which have not been replaced with statistics and one section marked ‘Jonathan to complete’. Do you think it’s wise to have seemingly skimmed on the EQIA for a decision affecting services relied on by many vulnerable residents – especially given the large number of complaints about blue badge assessments in particular that followed the previous tendering in 2011?”

Written Response: The full EqIA relating to this area can only be completed once procurement occurs, contractor evaluation has taken place and a contractor is appointed. The implications this assessment may pick up are also dependent on what LOT’s are actually awarded, Harrow hoping to offer a mix of non-automatic applications or both non-automatic and automatic applications in full or for just a percentage of the service.

It is unfortunate that at this early stage the full EqIA assessment cannot be completed and is still in skeleton form. However, may I remind you that this report is simply asking for “authority to procure” and members will have a fully completed assessment to consider when the matter is again brought to Cabinet for the outcome of the procurement to be authorised and the contract awarded. If it helps, the EqIA has progressed and the latest update is available for information, notwithstanding my previous comments.

Finally, what I can categorily state is that a contractor will only be appointed if they can demonstrate that they can match or improve on the quality standards currently in place, thus ensuring our vulnerable residents see only a seamless or improved service regardless of who the appointed contractor is.