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Mr Jim Allister MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Stormont

19 February 2013

AQW 19724/11-15

Mr Allister has asked:

To ask the Minister of Finance and Personnel to publish the paper he referred to in the Estimates debate on 11 February 2012 which shows that cross-border co-operation is costing Northern Ireland £11.2m per annum.

ANSWER

I commissioned, as part of ongoing Budget Review Group work, an assessment of the costs and benefits accruing from cross-border co-operation. The summary of this work which concluded in July 2012 has been placed in the Assembly Library.

Sammy Wilson MP MLA



Department of
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Our Ref: SUB/194/2012

FROM: SAMMY WILSON MP MLA

DATE: 6 JULY 2012

TO: BUDGET REVIEW GROUP

IDENTIFICATION OF SAVINGS FROM PRACTICAL CO-OPERATION WITH THE ROI IN THE OPERATIONAL DELIVERY OF PUBLIC SERVICES

As part of the ongoing programme of work to identify potential efficiencies, the Budget Review Group had asked for some information as regards the possible level of savings from practical co-operation in the operational delivery of services between NI and the RoI, within existing structures.

In response, NI departments were asked to provide details of the current position in respect of:

- (a) Ongoing areas of practical co-operation with the RoI to deliver savings, including the level of savings actually achieved; and
- (b) Additional costs imposed by proximity to the RoI.

In providing this information, departments were informed that this exercise excluded the ongoing activities of North-South bodies. All departments have now provided returns as summarised in Appendix A. In particular, Table A1 shows that savings of £0.3 million were achieved in 2011-12 from practical co-operation with the RoI in the delivery of public services while Table A2 shows that there was an additional cost to the provision of public services in NI of £11.6 million in the same financial year, mainly due to RoI residents using NI public services.

SAMMY WILSON MP MLA
Minister of Finance & Personnel

Appendix A

Table A1: Savings from Practical Co-Operation with the RoI in the Delivery of Public Services

Department	Area of Practical Co-operation	Savings 2011-12 £m
DARD	Within the Veterinary service, potential savings from joint tendering by DARD and the RoI Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine for the emergency supply of CO2 for use in the event of an epizotic disease outbreak.	0.04
DCAL	Although there are a number of areas where DCAL co-operates with the RoI, for example in respect of film production it is not possible to quantify the savings from this work.	0
DE	Nil return	0
DEL	Nil return	0
DETI	Nil return- although possible savings to consumers through Single Electricity Market.	0
DFP	Nil return	0
DHSSPS	Western Trust- cross border services in place for Oral Surgery, Renal Services and Neo-natal services- savings based on 10% contribution to overheads.	0.087
	NI Ambulance Service- cross border services providing more timely response for patients but releases only negligible savings.	0
	Belfast Trust- sustainability of highly specialised services.	0
DOE	Reduced duplication of work through co-operation in tackling the issue of invasive alien species.	0.05
DRD	Improved data exchange with Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport resulting in improved payment recovery from RoI vehicles in respect of parking fines.	0.09
	Joint tender of on-board catering services for Enterprise rail service	0.06
DSD	Nil return	0
OFMDFM	Nil return	0
DOJ	Cross Border Policing Strategy	0
TOTAL		0.327

Table A2: Additional Costs Imposed on the Provision of Public Services in NI due to the Proximity to the RoI.

Department	Cost from proximity to RoI	Costs 2011-12 £m
DARD	Nil return	0
DCAL	Nil return	0
DE	Additional cost from net movement (260) of RoI resident pupils to schools in NI.	0.75
DEL	RoI domiciled students at NI Further Education colleges	8.34
	RoI domiciled residents on NI vocational training courses (Training for Success, Programme-Led Apprenticeships and Apprenticeships NI)	1.57
DETI	Nil return	0
DFP	Nil return	0
DHSSPS	Persons resident in RoI but who use NI address in order to access health treatment, which they are not entitled to free of charge- up to £30k each	0
	Western Trust - cost of providing A&E, GUM, and Other Outpatient services to RoI residents in excess of income	0.555
	Belfast Trust- RoI residents receiving services which are not recharged to the RoI (including HIV service which RoI is refusing to fund)	0.355
DOE	Requirement to consult when Environmental Impact Assessment is expected to have an impact on RoI	0
DRD	Nil return	0
DSD	Nil return	0
OFMDFM	Nil return	0
DOJ	Nil return	0
TOTAL		11.570