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### Introducing GST in May

I am writing to remind you that the new Goods and Services Tax (GST) comes into force on 6 May 2008, and to help explain how it will affect you as a consumer.

On the reverse of this letter is a consumer's guide to GST. I hope you find the content helpful, but if you need any further assistance, it contains a number of contact details.

Retailers will still display the cost you must pay for an item, generally inclusive of GST, so you can still compare prices between different retailers.

A limited number of goods will come into Jersey pre-priced. These will mainly be books, newspapers and magazines, but certain foods may be pre-priced. Where this is the case, shopkeepers will display a prominent sign stating that an extra 3% will be added to the cost of these items at the till.

You might buy goods from other countries by mail order or over the internet, and receive parcels in the post. Depending on the value of these goods, you may have to pay Customs charges (such as import duty and GST). If the total sum of all the Customs charges adds up to more than £12 then you will have to pay GST on those goods.

As a guide if you receive goods, (either by mail order, internet shopping, or as a gift) from the EU and they are worth £400 or less, the Customs charges will be under £12 and you won't have to pay any GST on those goods.\*

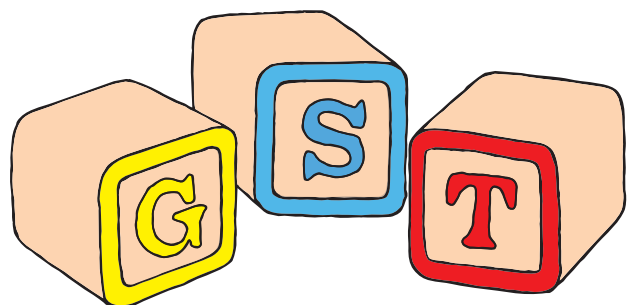
We have put a lot of information on our website [www.gov.je/gst](http://www.gov.je/gst) and parish halls have copies of all our leaflets. Keep this letter and consumer's guide to hand, as I believe it will be useful when GST is introduced. If you have any questions do contact our team; they are here to help.



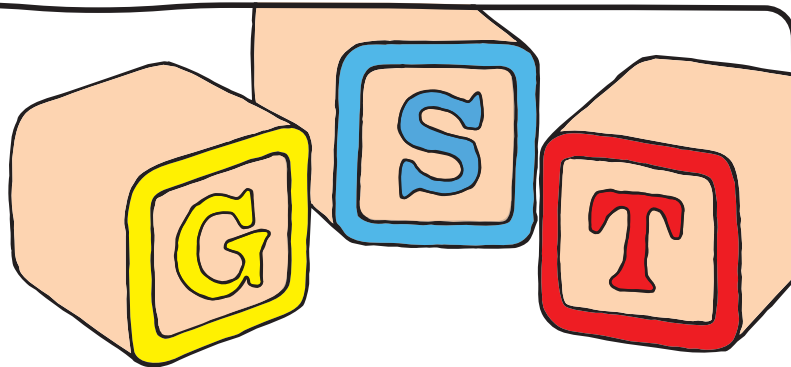
Senator Terry Le Sueur

\*There are exceptions to this, and Customs do have the right to ask you to pay Customs charges, including GST, even if this charge is less than £12

**We're here to help**  
**[www.gov.je/GST](http://www.gov.je/GST)**



# A consumer's guide to GST



GST is a 3% tax on goods and services in Jersey. It will be introduced on 6 May 2008 and will be included in the prices you see on the shelves in shops. A small number of goods, such as newspapers and pre-priced foods, won't have GST included in the price but these will be clearly shown by prominent signs. You will still pay GST, and this will be added at the till.

The main goods and services that will not attract GST are:

- Employees' salaries
- Insurance and banking services
- Postal services
- Medical charges and prescription medicines
- Supplies made by charities
- Purchase, lease or rent of a home
- School fees and registered child care
- Exports and international services to non-residents
- Air and sea fares to and from Jersey

You can find a full list in the booklet *GST and The Consumer* available from all parish halls and on our website [www.gov.je/gst](http://www.gov.je/gst)

## How do I know how much GST I am paying?

Not all businesses will charge GST. Those with a turnover up to £300,000 a year do not have to register, and only registered businesses can charge the tax.

Retailers who are registered for GST must display their prices inclusive of GST, so that the price shown on the shelf will be the price you pay. There will be some exceptions, such as newspapers and pre-priced foods. Where this is the case, shopkeepers will display a prominent sign stating that an extra 3% will be added to the cost of these items at the till.

## What if I buy, or am sent, something from outside the Island?

Depending on the value of goods you buy or are sent from outside Jersey, you may have to pay Customs charges (such as import duty and GST). No matter where your goods come from, if the total sum of all the Customs charges adds up to more than £12 then you will have to pay GST on those goods.

As a guide if you receive goods, (either by mail order, internet shopping, or as a gift) from the EU and they are worth £400 or less, the Customs charges will be under £12 and so you won't have to pay any GST on those goods.\*

But goods from other countries, and alcohol and tobacco, attract different rates of duty, and if you're receiving goods from outside the EU, you need to check the rates by looking on the Customs website, or by speaking to a Customs Officer.

*Important note: If you order something that will be liable to a Customs charge and it arrives in the Island after the GST start date (6th May 2008) you will have to pay the GST before the goods will be released to you.*

## How do I pay the GST on goods, services or gifts from outside Jersey?

**Option 1: Pre-pay.** You can pre-pay the GST on your goods online via the Customs website [www.customs.gst.gov.je](http://www.customs.gst.gov.je). To do this you will need to enter your name and address, the company that's sending the goods and the details of your debit card.

**Option 2: Post-pay.** If you are advised that your goods have been detained on arrival you will need to declare their value to Customs. Where any duty or GST is liable you will need to go online to [www.customs.gst.gov.je](http://www.customs.gst.gov.je) to pay.

If you do not have access to a computer, terminals will be available at Customs in Maritime House for electronic payment. Customs staff will be available to help people complete their payment.

There are separate arrangements for businesses that regularly import goods; to find out more please see our website [www.gov.je/gst](http://www.gov.je/gst)

\*There are exceptions to this, and Customs do have the right to ask you to pay customs charges, including GST, even if this charge is less than £12. Please see the website for more information.

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

GST help desk	440555
Customs help desk	448000
Trading Standards	448160
Consumer Council	611161

### USEFUL WEBSITES:

[www.gov.je/gst](http://www.gov.je/gst)  
[www.customs.gst.gov.je](http://www.customs.gst.gov.je)  
[www.tradingstandards.gov.je](http://www.tradingstandards.gov.je)  
[www.jerseyconsumercouncil.org](http://www.jerseyconsumercouncil.org)