

Migration Policy Development Board



Migration Policy Development Board (the 'Board' or the 'MPDB') Meeting 4
Thursday 18th April 2019, 14.00 – 16.00

Board:

Assistant Chief Minister, Connétable Christopher Taylor (CT) (Chair)
Deputy Rowland Huelin (RH)
Dr Michael Oliver (MO)
John Shenton – Jersey Institute of Directors (JS)

Executive Support:

Sue Duhamel – Policy Director (SD)
Neil Stocks – Policy Principal, Immigration & Migration Policy (NS)
Matthew Viney – Policy Principal (MV)

Guests:

Duncan Gibaut – Statistic Jersey (DG)
Daniel Edmunds – Statistics Jersey (DE)
Greg Boyd – Economics Unit (GB)

Apologies:

Chief Minister, Senator John Le Fondre (JLF)
Minister for Social Security, Deputy Judy Martin (JM)
Minister for the Environment, Deputy John Young (JY)
Senator Sarah Ferguson (SF)
Murray Norton – Jersey Chamber of Commerce (MN)

1. Welcome, apologies and minutes of last meeting

1.1. CT welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted from JLF, JM, JY, SF and MN.

1.2. The revised minutes of Meeting 2 and the minutes of Meeting 3 were agreed by the Board and signed by CT.

2. Further questions for DE following on from the presentation at Meeting 3

2.1. There were no questions asked under this item. DE attended the remainder of the meeting to field questions as and when they arose.

3. Presentation – DG - "Jersey resident population estimate – 2017" and "Jersey resident population projections - 2016"

3.1. CT welcomed DG and invited him to deliver the presentation.

3.2. Prior to the presentation, DG advised the Board that the team at Statistics Jersey were available anytime to field questions arising out of their published material.

3.3. The first part of the presentation provided an analysis of the current population in Jersey, including changes due to net migration. During the course of the presentation, clarification was requested on several points. Predominately on the way the statistics had been derived – with a particular focus on the accuracy of census figures (in general) and the capture rates of people to ensure none had slipped "under the radar". DG advised that modern census taking methods are more proactive in seeking people out and also use modelling to fill in any potential gaps – meaning that from a statistical point of view, especially given Jersey's small area, census figures would represent an accurate assessment of the population. DG advised that the next census would be taken in 2021.

3.4 The presentation highlighted the impact on population growth of the current policy whereby residents can gain entitled to work status after 5 years of continuous residence. This had also been highlighted in the Control of Housing & Work Law presentation in meeting 2 as 'graduation'¹ when employees 'graduate' from registered to entitled to work permissions.

3.5. RH requested whether it would be possible to statistically analyse the cost that was attached to those leaving the island and what the gain (income) was of those that moved to the island.

Action Point 1 – Statistics Jersey/Economic Unit to provide advice on the feasibility of statistical modelling of the net cost (per individual) of migration.

3.6. NS advised that as Jersey forms part of the Common Travel Area we do not currently count people in and out of the Island. DG confirmed that, for this reason, Statistics Jersey adopts a statistical approach to monitoring population and data is gathered from a variety of sources. It was noted that

¹ Graduation you tube video: <https://youtu.be/REwLYj7q8dl>

Guernsey have put in place recent systems which require all residents to have permission to live and work there which allows for figures to be accurately assessed.

3.7. DG noted that the second presentation – ‘Jersey population projections 2016’ - took a deterministic, (non-stochastic) approach to project the Island population forward for several decades. It is not a forecast. The purpose of the report was to act as a baseline to inform future policy discussions. The projections identified the number of children, adults and pensioners under a variety of migration scenarios.

3.8. The presentation highlighted the increase in the ageing population and the projection of the population in 2035, based on the current recent trend of +1000/annum net migration. Of particular note was the projected need for new schools, housing and the amount of land that would be required to facilitate them. The changes in dependency ratio (the proportion of working age adults available to support non-working children and pensioners) were also discussed and the Board requested the report² covering the dependency ratios discussed in the presentation to be circulated to provide more detailed statistics.

Action Point 2 – Jersey population projections 2016 release to be circulated to the Board.

3.9. DG concluded his presentations. CT thanked DG.

4. Presentation – GB - “Long term revenue v expenditure projections”

4.1. CT welcomed GB and invited him to deliver the presentation.

4.2. The presentation provided forecasts of overall government income and expenditure over time and taking into account various migration scenarios. It was noted that the ageing of the population increases government expenditure and creates a widening gap between income and expenditure under most scenarios. The report highlighted the historic swing in the Financial sector, away from banking and towards trust and fund management. This had had a negative impact on the productivity of the sector. Methods of how to increase productivity were discussed and it was highlighted that no single change e.g. migration controls, productivity, diversification, would address the funding issue in the long term – a change to several factors would be required.

4.3. MO asked if statistical modelling of the revenue impact on the change in levels of various forms of taxation could be provided to the Board. GB advised that it could be made available. However the modelling would need to be static, rather than dynamic, and would not reflect the possible impact on other factors within the model.

² Jersey Population Projections 2016 release

<https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Government%20and%20administration/R%20Population%20Projections%202016%2020161013%20SU.pdf>

4.4. RH emphasised the importance of skills and education, highlighting that productivity started with education. A holistic view across the various factors (or “levers”) outlined in GB’s report would be needed.

4.5. This concluded GB’s presentation – CT thanked GB.

5. AOB

5.1. CT requested the circulation of statistics in relation to the number of births, and school attendance over the last 10 year. This would assist in providing an idea as to the number of children moving to the Island, as opposed to those that are born here. It was noted that HAWAG (when granting a licence to a business to employ an individual) do not receive details of the numbers of family members that might accompany that individual.

Action Point 3 – Birth and School attendance statistics to be requested from Statistics Jersey.

5.2. The Board requested the circulation of the average earnings statistics report³.

Action Point 4 – Average earnings statistics report to be circulated

5.3. The Board discussed which groups it would be beneficial to receive briefings from at future meetings – utility companies, infrastructure, hospitality and Digital Jersey were all mentioned.

6. Housekeeping

6.1. The date of the next meeting will be Thursday 16th May 2019.

6.2. RH requested that the email relating to setting up access to EGRESS be resent to him.

Action Point 5 – NS to resend EGRESS email.

6.3. NS advised that there would now be a break in the meetings until 16th May. In this interim period a paper would be circulated to the Board with examples of migration and population policies from other jurisdictions around the world.

Action Point 6 – NS to circulate papers.

6.4. There being no further business, CT wished everyone a happy Easter and closed the meeting at 15:54.

³ Earnings and income statistics

<https://www.gov.je/Government/JerseyInFigures/EmploymentEarnings/Pages/EarningsIncomeStatistics.aspx>

7. Action Points

	Action required	Allocated to	Required by	Date completed
1	Advice on the feasibility of statistical modelling of the net cost (per individual) of migration	Statistics Jersey/Economics Unit	13/05/19	30/05/19
2	Circulate dependency ratio report	NS/MV	25/04/19	30/04/19 Added to MPDB webpage
3	Circulation of Birth and School attendance statistics	Statistics Jersey/NS/MV	13/05/19	To Chair 21/05/19
4	Circulation of average earnings report	NS/MV	25/04/19	07/05/19
5	Resend EGRESS email to RH	NS	25/04/19	23/04/19
6	Circulation of paper on migration / population in other jurisdictions	NS	13/05/19	07/05/19

<https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Government%20and%20administration/R%20Average%20Earnings%20June%202018%20report%2020180824%20SJ.pdf>

Minutes agreed

Chairman:



Date:

16/05/19

Agreement for publication

Chairman:



Date:

31/05/19

Register of Actions

Action Points from the Migration Policy Development Board

	No.	Action required	Allocated to	Required by	Date completed
Meeting 1 07/03/19	1	Invite 3 x lay members	NS	15/03/19	08/03/19
Meeting 1	2	Invite 1 x backbencher	NS	15/03/19	11/03/19
Meeting 2 21/03/19	3	Arrange for Andrew bannister to return for next meeting	NS	04/04/19	26/03/19
Meeting 2	4	Circulate FPP Report to the Board	NS	04/04/19	02/04/19
Meeting 3 04/04/19	5	Revise previous minutes	NS	18/04/19	12/04/19
Meeting 3	6	Circulate papers to the Board	MV	18/04/19	04/04/19