Jersey Statistics Council
Meeting Notes

Formal Council Meeting

Date: 23 September 2025, 09:00-13:00

Venue: Meeting Room R1.026, Government of Jersey Building, Union Street, St Helier & Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Chair: Dr Kathryn Chamberlain OBE (KC)

Council Members: **In person:** Anya van Heerden (AH), Beverley Bissett (BB), Duncan Millard (DM), Greg Boyd (GB), Siobhan Carey (SC),

Via Teams: Mark Pragnell (MP), Murray Norton (MN), Rebecca Millar (RM)

In attendance: Ian Cope (IC), Chief Statistician
Daniel Edmunds (DE), Principal Statistician
Francis Walker (FW), Head of Policy, Government of Jersey

Secretariat: Phoebe Chambers (PC), Administrator

Apologies: MP leave by 11:00, FW to leave before 10:45.

Documents Presented	00. Agenda	08, 23. Tier 1 Assessment of Outputs
	04. Chairs Report	09. Planning Ahead
	05, 011/012. Cover Paper Rules of Conduct	12. Forward look
	05, 021/022. Cover Paper Terms of Reference	
	06. Finance Report	
	08, 01. Code of Practice for Tier 1 Statistics	
	08, 21. Cover Paper Initial List of Tier1 Statistics	
	08, 22. Report Initial List of Tier 1 Statistics	

1.	**Welcome, housekeeping and apologies**.	
	The Chair welcomed everybody to the first Formal meeting of the Statistics Council. Attendees were asked to declare any interests relevant to matters on the agenda and none were declared. It was noted that a register of interests was not circulated with the papers. This would be prepared prior to the next meeting, and all attendees would be asked to confirm that it was correct.	**Action:** Secretariat to circulate register of interests for confirmation of accuracy and completeness.

2.	**Introduction**	
	The Chair summarised the objectives of the meeting. Specifically, these were that • All members should have a clear and shared understanding of our purpose • All members should understand the rules and procedures that would govern the way we work • The Council should deal with the immediate business required by the Chief Statistician in relation to Tier 1 Statistics • The Council should have an opportunity to discuss how it would approach the delivery of its functions.	
3.	**Reflections on previous day**	
	Council members took some time to reflect on the induction training received the previous afternoon. Overall it was felt that the training received had provided a good, shared base of understanding across all Council members. It was noted that the Statistics Council needed to establish connections and positive communication flows with all Statistics Users. Including, but not limited to: Government, Chief Minister, States Assembly, Arm's Length bodies, Private Sector, Third Sector and the public. It was felt that the Council would be stronger with greater local and third sector representation. A decision was made to seek agreement to recruit up to two more Council Members who were based locally. The Council discussed connections with Academics from smaller jurisdictions. **IC** highlighted that he attended quarterly meetings with Isle of Man and Guernsey equivalents. **RM** is well placed to provide insight on smaller jurisdictions.	**ACTION:** Chair to write to FW requesting that up to two further locally based Council Members be recruited.
4.	**Chair's Report**	
	The Chair introduced a brief report on activities since the Council met for their introductory meeting on 30th June 2025. During this period much time had been spent preparing for the formal launch of the Council and regular processes have been introduced to keep Council members up to date. An introductory meeting has been held with the Chief Minister during which he was supportive of the role of the Statistics Council and was positive about the work of the Chief Statistician and Statistics Jersey.	

5.	**Governance**	
	Rules of Conduct FW presented a paper setting out the proposed Rules of Conduct for the Council and its members. Legislation requires that these Rules are prepared by the Minister and presented to the States as a report. Members were pleased to be consulted and had no comments to propose to the draft Rules. **Framework Agreement** FW provided an update on progress with the drafting of the Framework Agreement between the Council and the Government of Jersey. Work will continue on the drafting of this agreement upon completion of the agreement with Statistics Jersey. **Terms of Reference** The Chair presented a draft Terms for Reference for the Council. The following amendments were agreed: • Paragraph 2.2.2. Amend "Advise the Chief Statistician" to "Advise the Chief Statistician or his nominated Deputy" • Paragraph 5.1 Amend to state that, in order for a meeting to be quorate, more than half of the Council Members should be in attendance. • Paragraph 6.2 Amend to clarify "Any member of the Council may propose an informal meeting. Such meetings may be called by the Chair if required. Members will be given a minimum of two weeks notice' of such meetings. • Paragraph 8.5 Amend aim to circulate minutes for factual accuracy checking within 15 working days rather than 10 • Paragraph 8.7 Insert new paragraph before 8.6 stating that "Provisional minutes for Formal Council meetings will be published to the Council's webpages as soon as practical after all meeting attendees have had the opportunity to comment'. The purpose of this amendment is to reflect the relatively long time period until the next meeting at which minutes could be formally approved. Subject to these amendments the Terms of Reference were approved. In relation to paragraphs 7.1 and 7.4 a further discussion took place regarding the value of producing an Annual Report for 2025 given that the Council would have been in operation for less than a year. Unless significant substantive issues arose in the remainder of the year it was concluded that the Chair should write to the Chief Minister advising that the Council proposed a light touch approach to reporting on 2025. The intention is to write to the Chief Minister early in	**ACTION:** Secretariat to make amendments to Terms of Reference and circulate with minutes to Council members. **ACTION:** Chair to write to the Chief Minister sharing the proposal to submit a progress

	2026 describing the work undertaken to establish the Council in 2025 and plans for the year ahead. The first substantive report would then be submitted in 2027 covering the first 18 months of the Council's operation. Chair to advise Chief Minister that a Statistic Council Update for 2025 will be provided, the first Annual Report will be released September/November 2026.	report to the Chief Minister in relation to 2025, with a first substantive Annual Report to be submitted in 2027 covering the first 18 months of operation.
6.	**Finance Report**	
	The Chair introduced a brief paper summarising the resources available to the Statistics Council to undertake its work. The budget for the Council was confirmed as £74k for the year. The Council has been allocated a Finance Business Partner within the Government of Jersey who will provide future Council meetings with more detailed reports on expenditure.	
7.	**Chief Statistician's Items**	
	Code of Practice Under the amendments to the Statistics and Census (Jersey) Law 2018 the Chief Statistician is now responsible for the Code of Practice for Tier 1 Statistics and he is required to consult the Statistics Council and the Jersey Statistical System. IC had consulted the Statistician and Analyst Data Leads in the summer. IC presented a paper summarising the results of the consultation with Council Members and his responses to comments made. The Council noted the process by which the Code of Practice had been developed. They further noted that the UK Statistical System was reviewing its own arrangements and any learning from this review would be considered in relation to the Jersey Code of Practice in due course. It was confirmed that the Code of Practice had now been published on the Statistics Jersey website. **Initial list of Tier 1 Statistics** DE presented a paper containing the Statistics Jersey's proposed First list of Tier 1 statistics. According to the legislation the Statistics Council will have six weeks to respond to the proposed list. In line with the legislation, initially only Statistics Jersey will be producing Tier 1 Statistics. Further down the line other departments will be able to nominate statistics to their Minister; the Chief Statistician must then review for compliances with the code before nominated statistics are added to the list of Tier 1 statistics lodged with the States Assembly. DE explained the components and processes considered for Tier 1 Statistics and the distinction between these and Quality Assured/ Quality Standard Statistics. The paper described the process that had been used by Statistics Jersey to	**ACTION:** Council members to provide their comments on Tier 1 Statistics in order that they can be collated and returned to the Chief Statistician by 5th November.

	assess the statistics and the criteria that had been applied. The Council were asked to provide comments on both the process, and on the details of the assessments and the resulting first list of Tier 1 Statistics. The Council will need to return its comments and recommendations to the Chief Statistician by 5th November 2025. Members were asked to return their comments to the secretariat by 17th October in order that these could be collated.	
8.	**Delivering our Functions – General**	
	For the final part of the meeting the Chair facilitated an extended discussion between Council members on how the Council should approach the delivery of its functions. The first part of the discussion focussed on the general functions: • To review, comment on, and make recommendations about the statistics on which it advises. • To promote the standards for tier 1 statistics. • To respect, uphold and defend the independence of the Chief Statistician and the Jersey Statistical System. **Range of available statistics** One of the most frequently occurring issues related to the range of published statistics available. A number of areas such as criminal justice and health were highlighted where there were limited statistics published. Members felt that there may be value in beginning to capture a **gaps analysis** over the next 18 months to inform discussions on priorities with users and producers. Members were informed about the review of Freedom of Information legislation in Jersey and the insight this might give into information being sought that was not routinely published. An interim report on this review was published in September 2025 and will be circulated to Council members. By investing resource in routinely publishing required data, it is likely to reduce the resources required to respond to FOI requests. Another potential source of information on data gaps is the 2024 survey of the Statistics User Group. There would be value in revisiting what users said in response to this survey. **Promotion** The discussion acknowledged that in order to be successful in promoting good quality statistics and in supporting improvement in the range and quality of	ACTION: Create a statistical issues log ACTION: Capture highlighted statistical gaps on the log ACTION: Circulate the FOI report to Council members

	statistics available, the Council would need to be directly engaging with statistical producers and those who hold data that is not currently being published. It was proposed that initially a **"Lunch & Learn"** session should be held between the Statistics Council and either the departmental analysts leads or the wider Analysts network, which brings together government employees with an interest in data and statistics. **Barriers to progress/ resourcing** There was a discussion about the need to be realistic and proportionate in seeking to prioritise potential improvements in the system. The Council considered whether it understood well enough the ambitions, constraints and challenges for statistical producers in increasing the scope of their published outputs. It was felt that further engagement with the Statistical Producers Group would assist the Council in this. There was a discussion whether the Council had access to sufficient information to build an informed commentary on resourcing considerations, specifically funding. It was suggested that the **Chief Minister's Annual Assessment** would provide important context and that the Council should request sight of this. It was also suggested that the Statistics Council should have sight of business cases for funding put forward by Statistics Jersey in order to question, challenge and consider whether and/or how to support. The Chief Statistician said that to fulfil one of its functions under the law, the Statistics Council would need information on the resourcing of statistical and analyst teams in other departments. This was not information that the Chief Statistician had, and he was not sure that it was currently collated centrally. The Statistical Council may therefore need to request this information via the Chief Officer of the Cabinet Office, and Treasury colleagues. **Statistics Jersey's Independence** The Council was pleased to note that challenges to the independence of the Chief Statistician and Statistics Jersey are not currently considered to be an issue. The Council discussed shared/open data as valuable resource. The Council were informed that the Government of Jersey Open Data platform had been created. However, it was not resourced, and the platform was not productive.	ACTION: Arrange Lunch & Learn ACTION: Secretariat to request a copy of the Chief Minister's Annual Assessment and share with Council Members. Chair to request information on resourcing of statisticians and analysts outside of Statistics Jersey

	The Government of Jersey Open Data site was set up a number of years ago, is hard to navigate, and has no resources to maintain it. The current server is seriously out of date and is being replaced. Statistics Jersey and ESSH analysts post a lot of data to the Open Data site, but it is an under-utilised resource for making information available to islanders. There has never been any guidelines or instructions put in place for how departments should utilise the Open Data site, or indeed any resource to proactively add data to the site.	
9.	**Delivering our Functions – Users**	
	The second part of the discussion focussed on the functions related to users. Specifically: • To gather and present the views of statistical users • To provide a neutral forum for statistics users to interact with the Chief Statistician, Statistics Jersey and other producers of statistics in public authorities on the production, use, quality, relevance and integrity of tier 1 statistics. **Visibility** The Council discussed the importance of ensuring that statistical users know of the role of the Council and how to get in contact. It was noted that webpages would be set up on the Government of Jersey web platform. A dedicated e-mail address statisticscouncil@gov.je was also available. Members decided to establish a social media presence on LinkedIn and Facebook. They felt that when the public presence was established there would be value in talking directly to local media outlets. Further face-to-face sessions such as Lunch & Learn sessions, discussions with Chief Officers, and discussions with Ministers would also be valuable when specific and relevant issues arose. **Joint Events/Surveys** It was acknowledged that the Council's resources were limited. However, there was a view that there may be some value holding informative or consultative events with users periodically. It was also felt that there may be some value in continuing to undertake a survey of user views on a regular basis. It was discussed that there may be potential to run joint events and/or surveys with other representative bodies sharing common interests, e.g. Statistics	

	Jersey. Members were keen to participate in events run by others where this may help them to engage directly with statistical users. It was agreed that the suggestions presented in this discussion session and in the previous discussion session would be taken forward to produce a draft workplan for the Council to be discussed in the next meeting.	ACTION: Chair to present a draft workplan to the next meeting.
10.	**Forward Look**	
	The Chair invited Members to express their views on frequency of meetings and related practical issues. The way in which the Council works will continue to evolve. However, the Council agreed the following • The Statistics Council will hold three formal meetings in 2026. • Two of these meetings will be via Teams and one meeting will be held in person, most likely in July • The next formal meeting will be held early December 2025 via Teams. This meeting will be used to firm up a work program for the Council during 2026. • Meetings in 2026 will be held in - March 2026 – via Teams - July 2026 – in-person meeting, Jersey. - November 2026 – via Teams. Consider agenda item on key priorities for Common Strategic Policy. • Informal meetings may be held during the year if matters arise • A half-hour slot will be scheduled prior to the start of each Council meeting for Council members to meet without the Chief Statistician present.	
	Meeting Closed	