

Migration Policy Development Board



Migration Policy Development Board (the 'Board' or the 'MPDB') Meeting 2
Thursday 21st March 2019, 13.00 – 15.00

Board:

Assistant Chief Minister, Connétable Christopher Taylor (CT) (Chair)
Minister for Social Security, Deputy Judy Martin (JM) – *for part of meeting*
Senator Sarah Ferguson (SF)
Deputy Rowland Huelin (RH)
Dr Michael Oliver (MO)
Murray Norton (MN) – Jersey Chamber of Commerce
John Shenton (JS) – Jersey Institute of Directors

Executive Support:

Sue Duhamel – Policy Director (SD) – *for part of the meeting*
Neil Stocks – Policy Principal, Immigration & Migration Policy (NS)

Jan Bento – Minutes secretary

Guests – for part of meeting:

Paul Le Monnier – Jersey Customs & Immigration Service
Tina Worboys – Housing Control Customer & Local Services
Andrew Bannister – Business Licensing, Customer & Local Services

Apologies:

John Young, Minister for the Environment

1. Welcome, apologies and introductions

- 1.1 CT welcomed all those present and noted apologies from John Young.
- 1.2 CT confirmed the purpose of the Board was to fully examine immigration policies, their strengths and weaknesses and report, by Easter 2020, on how these can be tightened.
- 1.3 A short discussion, led by CT, on a brief history of previous immigration and population controls and figures.

2. Presentation 1 - Control of Housing & Work Law 2012 (CHWL), Housing Control & Business Licences.

- 2.1 The Chairman invited Tina Worboys and Andrew Bannister, from Customer & Local Services, to give their presentations on the Control of Housing & Work Law 2012 (CHWL), Housing Control and Business Licences.
- 2.3 JM & SD joined the meeting
- 2.4 As part of the presentation the Board sought clarification on the current legislation in a number of areas, including high net worth residents, business licences, manpower returns from employers, the impact of periods of absence from Jersey, the mechanisms for reducing the number of employees on a Business Licence, what happens once a person moves from registered to entitled to work status, student accommodation and work status, what happens when a business is bought or merges with another.
- 2.5 Discussion as to whether there are any statistics that show the economic cost/benefit of a worker in different scenarios e.g. (single person, family with two children etc.) SD confirmed that there will be an input from the Statistics Unit at a future meeting of the Board.
- 2.6 It was noted that there is an economic benefit beyond an individual's contribution i.e. hard and soft benefits.
- 2.7 Anecdotally, it was suggested that highly-educated people have taken low-paid jobs for 5 years until they achieve Entitled status but such persons could be in higher paid jobs and thus be contributing more. Such situations may have arisen due to beneficial currency exchange rates, where even a low-paid job in Jersey resulted in a higher amount being sent to the individual's home country than could be earned there; this type of situation may not continue as exchange rates fluctuate against the person.
- 2.8 It was noted that five years' residence provides right to benefits and that the aim of the CHWL is to optimise growth while limiting migration by selectively approving applications to support migration which delivers the greatest social and economic value to the island, the department makes a decision on Business Licence applications based on population control. It does not direct businesses on its businesses model or how it should operate.
- 2.9 It was suggested that an unintended consequence of this policy may be that decisions are being made on the potential of a business, however Mr Bannister confirmed that licence assessments are considered, as per slide 16, accordingly with published policy. With the overall test being the benefit that the application has to the Island as a whole, bearing in mind the wish to limit migration. Appeals are possible through HAWAG.
- 2.10 The meeting noted the potential conflict between growing the economy and limiting population growth.

2.11 Due to the number of questions from Board members and the desire to continue the discussion of 'active' registered permissions and population growth these matters were carried forward to the next meeting. ACTION POINT 1 NS

2.12 *The Chairman thanked Ms Worboys and Mr Bannister for their presentations and they left the meeting.*

3 Presentation 2 - Jersey Immigration Controls and Immigration Work permits

3.1 *Mr Le Monnier joined the meeting.*

3.2 Paul Le Monnier, from the Jersey Customs & Immigration Service, gave a presentation on the Jersey Immigration Controls and Immigration Work permits.

3.3 Clarification on a number of points was sought, including:

- 700 visit visas for non-EEA Nationals are issued annually (application is via the UK Home Office online: a recommendation is made to Jersey and assessed locally then granted or refused),
- how a partner might join a person with a work permit and whether they can work,
- illegal immigrants,
- The Jersey EU Settlement Scheme is moving forward; appointments are available Wednesday and Thursday afternoons to assist with applications. Of the 20,000 expected to register under the Settlement Scheme, 1,400 have registered to date
- A small number of applications have been made for Seasonal Work Permits, in the agricultural industries, (possibly more will be required later in the season at harvest)
- Application for seasonal Work Permits have to be made via the Jersey Royals Company/Jersey Farmers Union for agriculture and via the Jersey Hospitality Association for hospitality.

3.4 *The Chairman thanked Mr Le Monnier for his presentation and he left the meeting.*

4 Minutes of previous meeting

4.1 The Board considered the minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2019 and approved them for signing by the Chairman of the meeting. It was noted that the minutes and presentations/briefing papers will be published on the Government website.

5 Scoping document

5.1 NS confirmed that the Scoping Document had been issued to the Board electronically.

5.2 It was noted that the scoping document gave the background to the current issues affecting migration and population in Jersey and statistics and various population projections moving forward.

5.3 It was noted that the majority of migration is currently from the Common Travel Area; and that this could not be controlled by immigration controls only by the CHWL.

5.4 It is important to consider inward migration that stays, rather than simply inward migration.

5.5 The purpose of the board is to reduce the island's reliance on inward migration

5.6 Immigration of non EU migrants is well controlled but there is currently no immigration controls control of EU citizens, who have a right to free movement.

5.7 ACTION POINT 2 NS: circulate the FPP Report to the Board

6 Structure of future meetings

6.1 NS confirmed that at future meetings, matters for discussion will include:

- Statistics, including demographics (e.g. the number of people v the number of working people, the ageing population); it is important to understand the current position and the presumptions around modelling. The Stats Unit is keen to provide hard data – it will be for the MPDB to decide what type of statistics it desires.
- Research from other jurisdictions.
- The interaction of the MPDB with the Island Plan and what assumptions need to be put in, noting that the Island Plan is a 10-year cycle with the next Plan due in 2021 and it takes two years to build
- Infrastructure will report at a future meeting

7 Declaration of interests

7.1 It was noted that those members of the MPDB, who are members of the Government of Jersey, have already declared their interests. MN confirmed he had no conflicts of interest. JS confirmed that he was related to a member of the Government of Jersey (the Constable of St Martin).

8 AOB

8.1 There being no further matters for consideration, the meeting closed at 15.05 hrs.

9. Action Points

	Action required	Allocated to	Required by	Date completed
1	Arrange for Andrew Bannister to return for next meeting	NS	04/04/19	26/03/19
2	Circulate FPP Report to the Board	NS	04/04/19	02/04/19

Minutes agreed

Chairman:



Date:

18/04/19

Agreement for publication

Chairman:



Date:

26/04/19
