

Minutes of Statistics Users Group Meeting

Date of meeting: **13 December 2016**; Concord Room, Cyril Le Marquand House

Present: Martin Richardson, *Chair* (MR), Auberon Ashbrooke (AA), Julian Barber (JB), Martin Delap (MD), Jennie Holley, Graeme Marett, John Noel, Maria Pelin (MP), Matthew Sutton
Secretary: Duncan Gibaut (DG)

Apologies Amy Bryant (AB)

1) Group meetings

The last minuted Group meeting was that of 4 November 2015 –see website

The Group met twice in 2016: on 29 January 2016 and 29 April 2016.

Since the Group was not formally constituted at these dates (Chair and Members up for membership renewal), no minutes were published.

2) Introductions

The Group was meeting for the first time since the appointment of the Chair and five new members (AA, JB, AB, MD, MP); *Report presented to the States on 8 November 2016 by the Chief Minister.*

3) Overview from the Chair

MR outlined three areas for which he proposed increased focus by the Group during the next three years:

- develop greater public profile for the Group and the Statistics Unit, particularly with respect to States Members and the media
- conduct audits of Statistics Unit work (methodology and process)
- compile a record of requests for substantial work by the Statistics Unit from bodies and persons outside of the States of Jersey

4) Update from Chief Statistician

- i) DG presented a **summary of budgetary and structural matters** faced by the Statistics Unit during 2016 (*see Appendix A*)
 - impact of proposed budget cuts in Medium-term Financial Plan Addition (MTFPA) 2017-19
 - statement made by Chief Minister in States Assembly pre-MTFPA debate
 - Health Intelligence Unit analytical function moved from Public Health Directorate to the Statistics Unit
- ii) DG updated the Group on the status of the **Census and Statistics Law**. The Unit had been working with the Law Draftsman's Office on writing a draft law throughout 2016. A draft was submitted in October 2016 to the Law Officers' Department for consideration.
- iii) DG informed the Group that the Unit would release an update of its annual publication "**Housing Affordability in Jersey**" on 16 December 2016

5) **States of Jersey Long-term Planning** – presentation by Dr Ian Skinner

6) **Statistics Unit Release schedule in 2017** (*see Appendix B*)

DG presented the Group with a proposed release schedule for Statistics Unit publications in calendar year 2017. The Group approved the schedule.

Action: [DG to publish the Release Schedule on the Statistics Unit website](#)

7) **Next meeting:** **Monday 13 February 2017**

Statistic Unit budget-related activities, 2016

Group meetings

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Main issue addressed in 2016

- cut of £84,000 (20%) to Statistics Unit budget proposed in Medium-term Financial Plan Addition, 2017-19 (MTFPA)
- implied reduction of 2 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff by 2019 (from total of 5.5 FTE)

SUG response

- letter of 3 March 2016 sent by the Chair on behalf of SUG to the Chief Minister
- SUG Chair and 1 Group Member met with Chief Minister on April 2016

May 2016

- 1 staff member of Statistics Unit gained a promotion within the States of Jersey (outside of Statistics Unit)
- Statistics Unit not permitted to “back-fill” outgoing staff member
=> immediate effective reduction of 1 FTE
- Chief Statistician announced (on 4 May 2016) cessation of Business Tendency Survey (BTS), Retail Sales Survey and UK-Jersey consumer price comparison

Summer 2016

- support for Statistics Unit from several external sources/organisations, particularly for reinstatement of BTS
- Deputy G. Southern lodges amendment to MTFPA proposing: *“except that the net revenue expenditure of the Chief Minister’s Department shall be increased in 2019 by £84,000 to fund the continued provision of 2 posts within the Statistics Unit.”*

Outcomes

1) MTFP debate – States Assembly, 27 September 2016

- Chief Minister states that recruitment for the unfilled post in the Statistics Unit has been approved and that *“we will find the money in 2019”*; pages 7-9 of Hansard:

<http://www.statesassembly.gov.je/AssemblyHansard/2016/2016.09.27%20States%20-Edited%20transcript.pdf>

2) Health Intelligence Unit move to Statistics Unit

- analytical function of Health Intelligence Unit (Public Health Directorate) brought under the management of Chief Statistician, representing transfer of 2.5 FTE
- original savings proposed for the Statistics Unit to be partially achieved through retirement of [REDACTED] by 2019

3) Successful recruitment to back-fill post

Interviews held in November 2016; anticipated start-date March 2017

4) Reinstatement of quarterly BTS – December 2016 round

States of Jersey Statistics Unit

Release dates – 2017

January	12	Registered Actively Seeking Work – December 2016
	20	RPI – December 2016
February	8 (p)	Business Tendency Survey – Q4 2016
	16	House Price Index – Q4 2016
April	12	Registered Actively Seeking Work – Q1 2017
	13	RPI – March 2017
	28	Labour Market – December 2016
May	3	Business Tendency Survey – Q1 2017
	18	House Price Index – Q1 2017
June	23	Jersey's Resident Population – 2016
	28	Survey of Financial Institutions – 2016
July	7	Registered Actively Seeking Work – Q2 2017
	12	Business Tendency Survey – Q2 2017
	21	RPI – June 2017
August	17	House Price Index – Q2 2017
	25	Index of Average Earnings – June 2017
September	29	Measuring Jersey's Economy, GVA and GDP – 2016
October	6	Registered Actively Seeking Work – Q3 2017
	11	Business Tendency Survey – Q3 2017
	20	RPI - September 2017
November	3	Labour Market – June 2017
	16	House Price Index – Q3 2017
	29 (p)	Jersey Opinions and Lifestyle Survey 2017

(p) provisional