

Minutes of Statistics Users Group Meeting

Date of meeting: **4 June 2018**; Concord Room, Cyril Le Marquand House

Present: Martin Richardson (MR, Chair), Martin Delap (MD), Jennie Holley (JH); Maria Pelin (MP);
Matthew Sutton (MS)
Secretary: Duncan Gibaut (DG)
Statistics Jersey representative: James Marshall (JM)

Apologies: Auberon Ashbrooke, Amy Byrant, Graeme Marett, John Noel

1. a) Minutes of last meeting (26 February 2018):

[Action DG – upload minutes onto the Group’s website](#)

b) Matters arising:

Potential Risks to Official Statistics:

MR had contacted and received a response from the Director of Corporate Policy.

Inviting Education Department Insight team to attend Group meeting:

DG informed the Group that since its last meeting a new person had been appointed into the post of Head of Insight in the Education Department. Furthermore, under the wider restructuring of the public sector, discussions were taking place between Statistics Jersey and the Education Department relating to bringing some functions of the Insight team under the responsibility of Statistics Jersey (see also item 3).

The Group acknowledged these developments and suggested that representatives of the Insight team, and of statistical/analytical functions currently in other departments, be invited to attend Group meetings in 2019.

Revising Jersey’s Code of Practice for Official Statistics:

see item 4

Requests for pre-release access:

DG and MR had reported the Group’s decisions back to the Social Security and Health and Social Services Departments, respectively.

Audit sub-group:

A meeting of the audit sub-group had been held on 19 March 2018. The sub-group had started a review of the labour market statistics, derived from the Manpower survey.

[Action DG – organise the next meeting of the sub-group](#)

2. Statistics and Census Law:

i) Update

DG informed the Group that since the Statistics and Census (Jersey) Law 2018 had come into force (on 23 February 2018) Statistics Jersey had been liaising with other departments in order to formalise the process for gaining access to administrative data, for the purposes of statistical analysis.

ii) 5-year plan

the Statistics and Census (Jersey) Law 2018 states that “*the Group must publish - a 5-yearly programme of statistics*”.

[Action DG – produce a draft programme and circulate to the Group before its next meeting.](#)

3. **Statistics Jersey in the new States of Jersey structure**

DG informed the Group that in the current restructuring of the public sector adopting a “hub and spoke” approach to the States of Jersey’s statistical service is being explored. Statistics Jersey is holding discussions with departmental representatives regarding the feasibility of incorporating elements of the devolved function (particularly statistical analysis and reporting) into Statistics Jersey whilst simultaneously developing and consolidating the links to the more departmentally focussed work.

Action DG – keep the Group informed of developments.

4. **Code of Practice**

JM gave the Group a presentation on the changes recently incorporated by the UK Statistics Authority in a revised Code of Practice for Official Statistics in the UK.

Action – DG to present to the Group at its next meeting a revised version of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics in Jersey incorporating:

- changes resulting from the Statistics and Census (Jersey) Law 2018
- elements of the revised UK approach, implemented in the Jersey context

5. **Summary of recent activity**

DG summarised the recent publications of the Statistics Unit:

- Retail Prices Index, March 2018
- Business Tendency Survey, Q1 2018
- House Price Index, Q1 2018
- Labour Market, December 2017
- Registered Actively Seeking Work, Q1 2018
- Public Health statistics:
 - Smoking profile, 2017
 - Avoidable mortality, 2016
 - Births and breastfeeding profile

6. **AOB**

DG

- i. Professor Tim Holt (the first Director of the Office for National Statistics in the UK, and the first Chair of the Statistics Users Group in Jersey) had recently visited the island. During this visit he advised Statistics Jersey on matters relating to implementation of the recently passed legislation and also on technical statistical issues.
- ii. funding had been requested (in April 2017) to run a Household Spending and Income Survey; this survey had previously run at 5-yearly intervals since 1999. The funding had not yet been approved.
- iii. a potential issue had arisen, relating to a specific matter, in the drafting of the Statistics and Census (Jersey) Law 2018. DG would keep the Group informed.

MS informed the Group that a propriety Luxury Price Index had been produced by a wealth management institution, to measure the cost of living experienced by high net worth households. DG suggested that such an index may be of interest to Locate Jersey.

7. **Next meeting: Monday 10 September 2018**