

Minutes of Statistics Users Group Meeting

Date of meeting: **13 November 2017**; Concord Room, Cyril Le Marquand House

Present: Martin Richardson (MR, Chair), Auberon Ashbrooke (AA), Julian Barber (JB), Amy Bryant, Martin Delap (MD), Graeme Marett, John Noel, Maria Pelin (MP)

Secretary: Duncan Gibaut (DG)

Apologies: Jennie Holley, Matthew Sutton

1. a) **Minutes of last meeting (11 September 2017):** agreed and signed off
[Action DG – upload onto the Group’s website](#)

b) Matters arising:

- i. **Meeting with the Chief Minister:**

Potential Risks to Official Statistics

This meeting took place on 17 October 2017; MR and AA attended on behalf of the Statistics Users Group and met with Paul Bradbury (PB, Director of Corporate Policy) and the Chief Minister.

MR is currently waiting for written confirmation from PB on the outcomes of the meeting.

- ii. **Statistics and Census Law**

DG informed the Group that the Statistics and Census Law had been lodged by the Council of Ministers as a Report and Proposition (P.106/2017) and was scheduled to be debated by the States Assembly on 12 December 2017.

2. **Release Schedule 2018**

DG presented the Group with a proposed release schedule for Statistics Unit publications in calendar year 2018. The Group suggested two alterations:

- remove the publication “Baby names, 2017” from the schedule of public health reports; the Group considered this to be a “nice to have” rather than an official statistical release. DG pointed out that the UK Office for National Statistics published such a report annually;
- the Group suggested publishing both the employment report (Labour Market, December 2017) and unemployment report (Registered Actively Seeking Work, first quarter 2018) simultaneously on 10 April 2018, before the pre-election purdah period.

The Group approved the modified schedule (attached as Annex).

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

3. **Pre-release access to official statistics**

At the previous Group meeting, the Group had endorsed the Chief Statistician’s proposal to end the pre-release access of official statistics, effective 1 January 2018.

The practical outcomes of this decision were that all publications covered by the 2018 Release Schedule would be made publicly available at 10 a.m. on the specified date, with no pre-release access granted to any person or party outside of the Statistics Unit. No exceptions were to be granted.

Actions

- [DG to announce the decision to end pre-release access of official statistics, to coincide with the release of the 2018 publication schedule of the Statistics Unit](#)

4. Summary of recent Statistics Unit activity

DG summarised the recent publications of the Statistics Unit.

- Measuring Jersey's Economy, GVA and GDP 2016
- Labour Market, June 2017
- Retail Prices Index, RPI
- Business Tendency Survey
- Registered Actively Seeking Work
- Public Health:
 - i. Disease projections, 2016-2036
 - ii. Mortality statistics, 2016
 - iii. Immunisation statistics, 2016

5. AOB

JB and MD asked that consideration be given to areas of the Statistics Unit's work which could be audited from the perspectives of methodology, data processing and quality.

Actions

- DG to organise and propose meetings of a sub-group consisting of AA, JB, MD and MP.

6. Meetings in 2018

Actions

- DG to propose meeting dates

States of Jersey Statistics Unit Release dates – 2018

January	11	Registered Actively Seeking Work – Q4 2017
	19	RPI – December 2017
February	9	Business Tendency Survey – Q4 2017
	22	House Price Index – Q4 2017
April	10	Registered Actively Seeking Work – Q1 2018
	10	Labour Market – December 2017
May	18	RPI - March 2018
	22	Business Tendency Survey – Q1 2018
	24	House Price Index – Q1 2018
June	22	Jersey's Resident Population – 2017
July	4	Survey of Financial Institutions – 2017
	10	Registered Actively Seeking Work – Q2 2018
	18	Business Tendency Survey – Q2 2018
	20	RPI – June 2018
August	16	House Price Index – Q2 2018
	24	Index of Average Earnings – June 2018
October	3	Measuring Jersey's Economy, GVA and GDP – 2017
	10	Registered Actively Seeking Work – Q3 2018
	17	Business Tendency Survey – Q3 2018
	19	RPI - September 2018
November	7	Labour Market – June 2018
	22	House Price Index – Q3 2018
	30 (p)	Jersey Opinions and Lifestyle Survey 2018

(p) provisional

Each of the above reports will be released at 10:00 a.m. on the specified date.

Public health statistics – 2018

January	Middle-age health trends, 1999-2016
February	Cancer projections
March	Avoidable mortality, 2016 Smoking Profile, 2017 Births and breastfeeding profile, 2017
April	Premature deaths, 2014-2016
June	Abortion statistics, 2017
September	Mortality statistics, 2017 Immunisation statistics, 2017
November	Child measurement programme, 2017/18
December	Multi-morbidity index, 2018 (p) Jersey Schools Survey, 2018

(p) provisional

For the above reports, the actual release date will be announced with one week's prior notice.