

Minutes of Statistics Users Group Meeting

Date of meeting: **23 January 2013**; 4th floor CLMH

Present: Mary Friswell (MF), Jennie Holley, Craig Leach (CL), Graeme Marett, Martin Richardson, Peter Surcouf, Matthew Sutton,

Statistics Unit: Duncan Gibaut (DG), Sarah Davis (minutes)

Apologies: Peggy Gielen, John Noel, Ray Shead,

1. Minutes of last meeting

Agreed and signed off.

2. Status of Chairman

The States Assembly are scheduled to consider Proposition P137/2012 "Statistics Users Group; appointment of Chairman" on 29 January 2013; this proposition asks the States Assembly to approve Martin Richardson (MR) as Chairman of SUG for a period of three years.

3. Terms of reference

MR discussed the Terms of Reference of the group, the main objectives being (MR) to support the unit in providing official statistics and (DG) to hold the Statistics Unit to account.

4. Discussion on Statistics Unit resourcing

MF raised question regarding use of Statistics Unit (SU) by other States departments and impact on SU resources.

DG reported SU being well utilised by other States departments as a central repository for statistical advice and information, with the team fitting such ad-hoc work around the publication releases.

MR suggested a role for SUG in encouraging States member attendance at Statistics Unit briefings

5. Future Chairman appointments

CL raised the possibility of identifying a mechanism for automatically appointing the longest standing member as chairman in future if no-one puts themselves forwards in the future. DG suggested in the interests of transparency and openness that it was important to advertise for the role publicly.

6. Update on Statistics Unit activity

DG summarised recent publications and ongoing work of the Statistics Unit:

Recent:

Jersey Annual Social Survey 2012

Housing Needs Survey

Jersey Economic Trends 2012

Quarterly:

Retail Prices Index, RPI

Business Tendency Survey

Retail Sales Index

House Price Index

Monthly:

Registered Actively Seeking Work (ASW)

Ongoing/upcoming in Jan/Mar 2013:

Better Life Index

Labour Market – Dec 2012

<u>Quarterly:</u>	Retail Prices Index, RPI Business Tendency Survey Retail Sales Index
<u>Monthly:</u>	House Price Index Registered ASW

7. Forecasting

CL questioned involvement of SU in forecasting, particularly in economic climate. DG explained SU are not involved in forecasting, economic forecasting being carried out by the Economics Unit.

SU do produce projections (outworkings of assumptions) of population numbers into the future, the results of which are transferred to departments such as health, social security, education, planning and TTS for those departments to analyse potential implications on resources.

8. Better Life Index

DG explained motivation for production of new Better Life Index arose from a general movement in international official statistical organisations moving from a single economic measure of well-being to a broader measure to include such things as education, health status, civic engagement and life satisfaction. SU to produce the first publication in the first quarter of 1 2013, comparable with other OECD jurisdictions, with aim to repeat annually to measure trends over time.

9. AOB

MR: requested that the SUG website be updated with minutes and inclusion of new members.

[Action: DG to organise.](#)

For discussion at next meeting:

[Action:](#) DG to obtain update from Guernsey Policy Unit regarding their population census

[Action:](#) DG to report assumption of level of black economy included in National Accounts

[Action:](#) DG to report on the outcomes of the recent consultation on the RPI in the UK

10. Next meeting

Thursday 18 April 2013

12.00 – 14.00, Concorde Room, 4th floor of Cyril Le Marquand House