

Minutes of Statistics Users Group Meeting

Date of meeting: **18 April 2013**; 4th floor CLMH

Present: Martin Richardson (Chair), Peggy Gielen, Jennie Holley, Graeme Marett, John Noel, Ray Shead (RS), Peter Surcouf

Statistics Unit: Duncan Gibaut (DG), Kim Guegan (KG)

Apologies: Mary Friswell, Craig Leach (CL), Matthew Sutton, Rozanne Thomas

1. a) Minutes of last meeting

Agreed and signed off.

b) Matters arising

i) SUG website:

DG informed the Group that the SUG website had been updated: membership and minutes.

ii) UK RPI

DG gave a presentation on developments with the UK RPI following the consultation held by the UK National Statistician in late 2012. The principal outcomes of this consultation were that: the UK would introduce a new experimental index RPIJ in March 2013; and the UK RPI would continue to be produced but would be de-designated as a National Statistic. More detail is available on the UK ONS website: www.ons.gov.uk

The Jersey RPI is methodologically similar to the new UK RPIJ; hence, future comparisons will be made between Jersey RPI and UK RPIJ.

iii) Hidden economy

CL had previously enquired about the incorporation of the hidden (“black”) economy within the UK and Jersey National Accounts measures. DG informed the Group that the treatment of the hidden economy was described within the ONS publication: National Accounts, Concepts, Sources and Methods; an evasion adjustment is included, which in 2010 represented 1.7% of UK GDP. A conceptually similar adjustment is also included within the mixed income component of Jersey’s measure of GVA.

iv) Guernsey Census

DG informed the Group that Guernsey was continuing with its program to develop a Rolling Electronic Census.: a recent (February 2013) Billet d’Etat addressed the drafting of the required legislation; and a tender process had been conducted for development of the necessary IT systems.

v) Trading Committees classification

RS had enquired about the classification as “private sector” of the States of Jersey Trading Committees (former and current) within the recent Labour Market report.

DG informed the Group that the Trading Committees had been classified as private sector undertakings in all Labour Market reports since 1998 because they came under the auspices of the *Regulation of Undertakings and Development Law 1973, as amended*, and also because under the Standard Industrial Classification of industries such activities were not included within the category of *Public administration and defence, compulsory social security*. DG informed the Group that the overall headcount employment of the Trading Committees, combined with the JFSC, JCRA and FNHC was, and historically had been, included in the Notes section of the Labour Market report.

2. Better Life Index

DG gave a brief presentation on the first annual report published by the Unit in March 2013. This major piece of work was initiated by the Statistics Unit in response to recent international developments aimed at measuring national well-being and societal progress from a broader set of measures than a traditional economics basis. Henceforth, this publication will be produced annually by the Statistic Unit.

3. Jersey Annual Social Survey (JASS)

KG presented the Group with provisional topics to be included in this year's JASS. Topics for inclusion each year are proposed by States of Jersey Departments; the survey is designed, co-ordinated, analysed and reported independently by the Statistics Unit.

4. Update on Statistics Unit activity

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

Recent:

Labour Market - December 2012

Quarterly:

Retail Prices Index, RPI
Business Tendency Survey
Retail Sales Index
House Price Index

Monthly:

Registered Actively Seeking Work

Ongoing/upcoming in April-June 2013:

Jersey in Figures 2012
Housing Affordability Index 2012
Population Update 2012

5. Next meeting

Thursday 18 July 2013

12.30 – 14.00, Council of Ministers Room, 9th floor of Cyril Le Marquand House