

Minutes of Statistics Users Group Meeting

Date of meeting: **23 September 2019**; La Pulente, 1st floor, 19-21 Broad Street

Present: Auberon Ashbrooke (AA), interim Chair, Amy Byrant (AB), Martin Delap (MD),
Simon Lewis (SL), Graeme Marett, Maria Pelin (MP), Moz Scott (MS; items 1 and 2)
Secretary: Duncan Gibaut (DG)

Apologies: Daniel Pullinger

1. AA welcomed the newly appointed members (SL, MS) to the Group.

2. **a) Minutes of last Group meeting (8 July 2019):**

[Action DG - upload minutes onto the Group's website](#)

b) Matters arising

None

3. **Codes of Practice**

Drafts of the two Codes of Practice (see below) had previously been circulated which incorporated comments received from the Group.

Code of Practice for Statistics

This code had been produced to reflect the expanded remit of the Group under the Statistics and Census (Jersey) Law, 2018 ("the Law"), that is "*overseeing the quality relevance and integrity of statistics compiled by or on behalf of a public authority*" as specified by Article 5 (1) of the Law. This code seeks to provide suitable guidelines for all such organisations.

Code of Practice for Official Statistics

This code incorporates modifications which pertain specifically to the official statistics produced by Statistics Jersey

The Group requested that it be noted that draft versions of the two Codes of Practice had been presented, for information purposes and comment, to the Government of Jersey's Corporate Strategy Board (CSB) at the CSB meeting on 11 December 2018.

The Group requested clarification as to the application of the two Codes of Practice in terms of the Functions of the Statistics Users Group as defined by the Law. This led to a broader discussion as to the scope and remit of the Group (see item 4).

The Group also requested that DG send the draft copies of the Codes of Practice to the UK Office of Statistical Regulation for comment.

[Action DG –send the draft copies of the Codes of Practice to the UK Office of Statistical Regulation.](#)

[Afternote: it was subsequently agreed that the Codes of Practice would be sent to the Chief Minister for them to be noted and promulgated.](#)

4. **Review of Governance**

The Group had been informed in early September 2019 that a review of the Group's governance framework, arrangements and implementation, was to be conducted by the Head of Governance of the Strategic Policy, Performance and Population (SPPP) Department. This review was to be conducted under the auspices of the responsibilities of the Director General of the SPPP Department for liaising with the Arms-Length Bodies of the Government of Jersey.

The SPPP Head of Governance had contacted the Group proposing individual meetings with Members to discuss governance matters, in order to compile information for producing a report. The report would be presented at a forthcoming Group meeting.

Action DG – invite SPPP Head of Governance to next Group meeting (16 December 2019)

Further discussion following regarding the role and responsibilities of the Group under the Law; AB requested that the forthcoming governance review provide clarification relating to:

- the scope of the functions and responsibilities of the Group under the Law
- the specific statistics produced by public authorities, including government departments, which fall within the remit of the functions of the Group
- the definition of public authorities
- when the Group is defined to be quorate
- the establishment and implementation of a defined governance framework, including a risk register
- the nature of the disclosure of obligations of the Group and the processes underpinning these obligations

The Group also proposed that the governance review give consideration to the provision of adequate resources to the Group for effective governance, including dedicated administrative support and statistical expertise.

Afternote: it was subsequently agreed that the SUG would write to the Chief Minister about resources, the risks to SUG being able to perform its obligations, and the Codes of Practice. This was done and the letter circulated.

5. Tourism statistics

DG informed the Group that following discussions with Visit Jersey, from 1 January 2020 the tourism statistics for Jersey were to be produced by, Statistics Jersey. A public announcement to this effect had been made on 16 September 2019.

A Service Level Agreement (SLA) had been drawn up between Visit Jersey and Statistics Jersey covering an initial period of three years (2020-2022) whereby Statistics Jersey were to

- design and implement a comprehensive ongoing exit survey of departing passengers, to derive and report on monthly volumes of visitors to Jersey, broken down by purpose of visit, mode of transport, country of residence and length of stay, and also totals for overnight visits and day visits
- through a more detailed ongoing exit survey of departing visitors, report quarterly on visitor expenditure, broken down by purpose of visit, mode of transport, country of residence and length of stay.

The SLA specified the funding to be paid to Statistics Jersey by Visit Jersey on an annual basis in order to conduct this work. DG informed the Group that the recruitment process for the team of fieldworkers required to carry out these surveys had commenced.

6. Census 2021

DG had informed the Group at its previous meeting that proposed funding to run a Census in 2021 was included in the Government Plan; the Plan is due to be debated by the States Assembly on 26 November 2019.

The Group considered that funding constituted the key risk to the Census at this stage and that alternative funding mechanisms should be considered, with urgency, should this prove necessary after the States debate.

Actions DG:

- keep the Group updated on the status of funding for the Census in the Government Plan.
- present to the Group other risks to the Census at this stage

7. Manpower Audit

MD summarised the status of the audit of the manpower statistics which had been started by a sub-group in 2018 and had previously circulated draft notes. The Group agreed to revisit the issue of statistical audits after the codes of practice had been published.

8. Summary of recent activity

DG summarised the recent publications of Statistics Jersey. The publication schedule can be found on the Statistics Jersey webpages at:

<https://www.gov.je/Government/JerseyInFigures/AboutStatisticsJersey/Pages/PublicationReleaseSchedule.aspx>

9. AOB

MP informed the group that some population and health-related statistics had been presented at a presentation concerning the review of primary care in Jersey. DG said that he had not been informed of, or consulted on, this presentation.

10. Next meeting

16th December 2019 (12:30 p.m.) in 19-21 Broad Street.

Afternote: it was agreed that meetings would be de-conflicted with Public Accounts Committee meetings, and 16th December needs to be checked. MS to advise PAC dates.