

Minutes of Interim Statistics Users Group Meeting

Date of meeting: 6pm, **26 March 2020**; Video conference call.

Present: Martin Delap (MD); Simon Lewis (SL); Graeme Marett (GM); Moz Scott (MS)

Apologies: Auberon Ashbrooke (AA), Amy Bryant (AB); Maria Pelin (MP); Daniel Pullinger (DP)

In light of the current logistical difficulties in arranging a central meeting arising as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions imposed, the meeting was held by video conference.

1. Agenda

This was an interim meeting to review, and if appropriate approve, the Business Case proposal for funding for 2020.

Draft agenda:

- a) Review Business Case and approve for submission.
- b) Publication Schedule.
- c) Statistical Data Model for Covid-19.
- d) Any Other Business.

2. Review of Business Case

Since the last SUG meeting the sub-group had revised the Business Case proposal. A revised draft had been circulated by MD on 16th March. A final updated draft, with annotated amendments, was circulated by MS on 25th March – this final version was reviewed.

A short discussion was held concerning the feasibility of the timescale in the light of the current status of events arising from Covid-19. It was agreed that these should not impede the submission of the Business Case and would be addressed in due course, as the situation evolves. The application process should be followed and monitored by SUG. Similarly the creation of the 2021 and beyond Business Case for ongoing funding will be subject to a separate submission process.

MS's proposed amendments were accepted and it was agreed that the updated Business Case would be submitted once the tracked changes were removed.

[Action: MD to accept changes in the document, and ensure formatting is updated.](#)

[Action: MD to contact AA to agree process for submission of the Business Case](#)

3. Publication Schedule

As a result of the Covid-19 virus situation, Statistics Jersey requested the postponement of the publication of the December 2019 Labour Market report: the Population Office has reported a substantial under-reporting of Manpower Returns which was likely to impact severely upon the accuracy and coverage of the report at the sectoral level.

AA has proposed a sub-committee to be established, comprising GM, SL and DP to look at and authorise such delays and check the press statements on the Statistics Jersey Website. This was formally agreed.

DL noted that the Statistics Jersey website has not yet been updated with the delay to publication. Whilst this is understandable given the current resource restrictions, it should be updated promptly. MD agreed to contact Duncan Gibaut (DG) to ensure the site is updated.

[Action: MD to contact DG to update the Statistics Jersey website with the amendments to the Publication Schedule, and the rationale for the changes.](#)

4. Statistical Model for Covid-19

MS gave a quick update about discussions and correspondence that had taken place between MS, AA and DG the production of the data model used to inform Government Policy for responding to the Covid-19 virus. Modelling on projections of the Covid-19 virus in Jersey had been carried out by Statistics using information provided by Public Health England and Imperial College, London. The information was supplied on an 'Official Sensitive' basis to a small number of relevant individuals. The reasons for the approach were accepted and it was agreed that SUG are happy with the approach taken. It was also agreed that there is a need to ensure that Statistics Jersey retains its independence.

5. Any Other Business

A short discussion ensued that SUG may wish to issue an update/press release about the changes to the publication schedule, and possibly review/comment on the production of the Covid-19 data at some point in future.

6. Next meetings

To Be Determined.