

## Minutes of Statistics Users Group Meeting

Date of meeting: **5 February 2014**; 4<sup>th</sup> floor CLMH

Present: Martin Richardson (Chair), Jennie Holley (JH), Craig Leach, Graeme Marett, Peter Surcouf, Rozanne Thomas

Statistics Unit: Duncan Gibaut (DG), Helen Hale (HH)

Apologies: Mary Friswell, Peggy Gielen, John Noel, Ray Shead, Matthew Sutton

1. **a) Minutes of last meeting:** agreed and signed off.  
**b) Matters arising:** DG informed the Group that the SUG website had been updated.

### 2. **Jersey Retail Prices Index**

HH gave the Group a presentation on the December 2013 round of the Jersey Retail Prices Index, published on 17 January 2014.

### 3. **Release dates in 2014 – update on issues due to Manpower Survey**

At the previous Group meeting (17 October 2013) DG had presented a provisional schedule of release dates for Statistics Unit publications in calendar year 2014. At that meeting DG had alerted the Group that he had designated several publication dates as provisional as a result of issues arising with the six-monthly Manpower Survey, being conducted (by the Population Office) under the Control of Housing and Work Law.

At the 17 October 2013 meeting, DG had informed the Group that the Statistics Unit publications directly affected by the December 2013 round of the Manpower Survey were:

- the Labour Market (December 2013 and June 2014 rounds),
- the Annual Population Update (2013);
- National Accounting aggregates GVA and GNI (2013).

DG reported that little progress had been made since 17 October and that he was becoming increasingly concerned about the Manpower Survey and its impact on the above publications. His concerns were primarily a result of the design of the survey (e.g. only electronic returns, not paper, being accepted and combined with Income Tax and Social Security returns) and also the adequacy of the resources which had been employed by the Population Office to address fundamental issues of data quality: coverage, accuracy and timeliness.

DG informed the Group that the Statistics Unit was keeping up to date with the Population Office regarding the ongoing status of the Manpower Survey returns. DG was aware that the Population Office intended to send out reminder letters to non-respondent businesses during the first week of February 2014.

#### Action

DG anticipated being able to make a definitive statement regarding the feasibility of publishing those Statistics Unit publications on the provisional dates by mid-March 2014.

**4. Update on Statistics Unit activity**

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

Recent:

- Jersey Annual Social Survey 2013
- Jersey Economic Trends 2013
- Quarterly:           Retail Prices Index  
                              Business Tendency Survey  
                              Retail Sales Index  
                              House Price Index
- Monthly:             Registered Actively Seeking Work (ASW)

Ongoing/upcoming Feb-May 2014:

- Jersey – UK regional price comparison
- House Price Index Q4 2013 and Q1 2014
- Jersey Housing Affordability 2013
- Retail Sales Index – Q4 2013
- Retail Prices Index – March 2014
- Jersey in Figures 2013
- Monthly ASW

DG informed the Group that the 2014 round of the Jersey Annual Social Survey (JASS) was currently being compiled and was scheduled to start running in May 2014.

Action

DG to circulate JASS questionnaire to Group for comment before the survey starts.

**5. AOB**

**Agriculture statistics 2012 (JH) – publication issues**

JH pointed out some deficiencies, as well as typographical and grammatical errors, in the annual publication “Agriculture Statistics 2012” produced by the States of Jersey’s Economic Development Department (EDD). For example, units were missing from some charts and the report may have benefited from having a more visual presentation (graphs and charts) rather than lists and tables.

Action

DG will liaise with EDD (Rural Economy) in order to suggest potential improvements to this publication.

**6. Next meeting**

**Wednesday 15 May 2014**

12:15 – 14:00 in the Concord Room, 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Cyril Le Marquand House