

## Minutes of Statistics Users Group Meeting

Date of meeting: **22 July 2015**; Cazenove Capital, 40 Esplanade

Present: Martin Richardson, *Chair* (MR), Mary Friswell (MF), Jennie Holley, Craig Leach, Graeme Marett, John Noel (JN), Ray Shead, Matthew Sutton, Rozanne Thomas  
Statistics Unit: Duncan Gibaut (DG)

Apologies: Peggy Gielen, Peter Surcouf

1. **a) Minutes of last meeting:** agreed and signed off  
[Action DG – upload onto the Group's website](#)

**b) Matters arising:** none

### 2. **Code of Practice for Official Statistics**

The Code of Practice was discussed by the Council of Ministers at their meeting on 6 May 2015. The Code was subsequently presented to the States Assembly on 15 May 2015 as R.63/2015.

DG confirmed, to a point raised by MR, that the “Official Statistics” covered by the Code would initially relate to the output of the Statistics Unit. In time, other States of Jersey Departments would be encouraged to put forward statistical outputs for assessment as being code compliant.

From the perspective of broadening the definition and coverage of official statistics, DG informed the Group that the administration of the Chief Minister’s Department was currently giving consideration to bringing the statistical function of the Health Intelligence Unit (which currently sits in Public Health) within the remit of the Statistics Unit.

The Group expressed the opinion that such a move may further assist and broaden the production of official statistics, but expressed concern at the additional workload on the Statistics Unit that such a move would result in. The Group offered the Chief Statistician their support in this matter.

### 3. **Population measurement, e-census and Population Register**

The estimate of Jersey’s Resident Population as at year-end 2014 was published by the Statistics Unit on 15 June 2014.

DG informed the Group that he had sent a cover note to all States Members and the Corporate Management Board (CMB) of the States of Jersey when he released this report. The main points of this note were that DG considered that:

- the latest estimates of total population and annual net migration were only moderately robust
- in the continued absence of an effective and live Population Register for Jersey, accurately and robustly measuring the resident population and net migration for Jersey on an annual basis was becoming increasingly unworkable
- the opportunity existed to develop an e-census for Jersey, as had been successfully developed and implemented in Guernsey
- the Statistics Unit was willing to co-ordinate a project with the Social Security Department focussed on developing and maintaining such an e-census.

DG informed the Group that he considered the current “Population Register”, under development by the Population Office since 2007, not to be of sufficient quality (accuracy and coverage) for the purpose of measuring the resident population.

JN expressed concern that this “Population Register” was to be used for purposes such as health screening and establishing the electoral roll. DG agreed with JN’s concerns.

DG informed the Group that since his note to States Members and CMB some preliminary discussions had taken place between the Statistics Unit and senior members of the Social Security Department and the e-gov project, regarding potential resource requirements of the Statistics Unit in order to develop an e-census.

The Group offered their ongoing support to the Statistics Unit as this initiative progressed.

#### 4. **Statistics legislation**

The Group endorsed its previously expressed intention to recommend the development of statistical legislation for Jersey, as initially discussed at the Group's meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

Action DG – draft a letter on behalf of the Group to the Chief Minister recommending that he give consideration to:

- the establishment of a legal framework for Official Statistics in Jersey;
- instructing the Law Draftsmen, in consultation with Statistics User Group and the Chief Statistician, to draft appropriate legislation.

#### 5. **Update on Statistics Unit activity**

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

Recent:

- Annual Survey of Financial Institutions, 2014
- Quarterly Retail Prices Index; Business Tendency Survey  
Retail Sales Index; House Price Index
- Monthly Registered Actively Seeking Work

Ongoing:

- **Household Spending and Income Survey, 2014/15**  
survey component completed end of April 2015  
data entry nearing completion; analysis about to start  
aiming for publication (separate Income and Spending reports) by end of 2015
- **Jersey Annual Social Survey, 2015**  
survey component completed; data entry nearing completion  
analysis about to start  
publication provisionally scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015
- **Manpower Survey, June 2015**  
publication provisionally scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015
- **Private sector rental statistics**  
experimental methodology being developed and trialled  
aiming for first publication in early 2016

#### 6. **AOB**

- i. DG: as of June 2015, the Statistics Unit had a Twitter account: @jsystats  
All the Unit's reports were now to be announced via this account, with ongoing release of the main points of each report, including infographics.

- ii. MF asked why the GVA figures presented in the report for calendar year 2013 (released in October 2014) had involved a rebase from 2003 to 2013 constant year values.  
DG informed the Group that he had first produced measurements for GVA following the SNA framework in 2004 for calendar year 2003, and at the same time produced a back-series to 1998. At that time, he had established 2003 as the base year for deriving constant year values of income. The change to a base year of 2013 was a simple methodological change periodically undertaken in the production of official statistics, such as consumer price and house price indices and national accounting measures. The process of chain-linking meant that the time series remained intact and that no accuracy was lost.
  
- iii. MR expressed concern that the workload of the Statistics Unit was experiencing ongoing expansion, particularly with the Unit now taking responsibility for developing an e-census for Jersey and potentially the statistical function of the Health Intelligence Unit.  
MR suggested that consideration be given to appointing a Deputy Chief Statistician.  
DG thought that consideration of the creation of such a new senior post was appropriate but probably unfeasible in the context of the broader public sector savings currently being considered.

7. **Next meeting:**

**Wednesday 4 November 2015**

At 1 p.m. in the Concord Room, 4<sup>th</sup> floor Cyril Le Marquand House.