

## Launch of the 2006 Jersey Annual Social Survey

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June the States Statistics Unit launches the 2006 Jersey Annual Social Survey (JASS).

The Jersey Annual Social Survey was first run in 2005 and the response from the public was terrific: over 1,800 people completed the survey. This meant that the report published in March 2006 provided, for the first time, detailed information on a wide range of social issues, allowing everyone in the Island to have a better understanding of social issues and for policy to be made from a more informed standpoint.

The 2006 survey builds on the success of last year's survey and once again the survey is a result of close cross-departmental working. The Statistics Unit runs the survey, produces and publish the results, but individual Departments have asked for topics to be covered to meet their priorities.

The survey has a set of core questions, which are asked every year, covering population demographics, economic activity and household structure and are aimed at ensuring key censuses variables are updated annually. The topics covered in 2006 include: Sunday trading, social security benefits, school transport, traffic management, parking, general health, energy use and recycling.

Over 3,000 households selected at random will receive the survey. To ensure we cover all the population the household member aged over 16 who next celebrates a birthday is asked to complete the form.

Commenting on the survey Duncan Millard, Head of the States Statistics Unit, said: "JASS is a major step forward in official statistics for Jersey, but it only works with the continued support of the public".

*"From the good response we had to the pilot we ran in May, we know people found the form easy to complete and the topics interesting. So if you do receive a form please complete it and send it back and by doing so you will help us all gain a better understanding of many of the Islands social issues. All responses will; be treated in the strictest confidence and only used to produce aggregate official statistics".*

JASS is part of the ongoing work to develop official statistics in Jersey. It means that the public and decision makers in Jersey will be more informed than ever before.

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