



Population Discussion

Population policy

1. About the population policy

Thank you for taking part in this consultation.

People in Jersey have been discussing the size of the Island population for many years, and plans have been put forward by successive Governments to keep the population at a certain level. Despite these plans, the Island has seen a steady growth in population in recent years.

This Government has agreed to develop a population policy that will consider how best to balance the overall needs of Jersey's economy, environment and community. The policy will also need to plan for an Island community that is getting older.

To help us develop the policy we would like to understand what you think about the level of Jersey's population.

As a starting point, we are looking for responses to these questions:

How should we balance the competing demands of the environment, the economy and the community?

What actions do you think Government should take?

What actions are you prepared to take as an individual to manage the population numbers?

We appreciate that there are strongly held views on this topic, that there is no single answer to these challenges, and there are no easy solutions, but your views are important.

2. Privacy Notice

Your personal information will not be shared outside of the team developing the Population Policy or published online as part of the consultation, but we may use it to notify you of progress and/or further consultations relating to the development of the Population Policy. Under Jersey's Data Protection Law you have the right to ask us not to contact you again (withdraw your consent to the further processing of your information). This will, however, mean that we will be unable to keep you informed throughout the various stages of the project. Should you wish to exercise this right please email us on population@gov.je

We may quote or publish responses to this consultation including information being sent to the Scrutiny Office, quoted in a published report, reported in the media, published on our website www.gov.je, listed on a consultation summary etc, but will not publish the names and addresses of individuals without consent. Confidential responses will still be included in any summary of statistical information received and views expressed. Under the Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011, information submitted to this consultation may be released if a Freedom of Information request requires it but no personal data may be released.

Population consultation privacy notice

Do you give permission for your comments to be quoted? *

- Yes, attributed
- Yes, anonymously
- No

Name, email address and organisation to attribute comments to, where applicable:

3. About you

Were you born in Jersey *

- Yes
- No

How would you describe your nationality ?

- Jersey
- British
- Irish
- Portuguese
- Madeiran
- Polish
- Romanian
- French
- Other (please specify):

What is your age

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+

Do you identify as:

- Female
- Male
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Which describes your status for housing and work in Jersey:

- Entitled (locally qualified)
- Entitled to work (5 years plus)
- Licensed ("essential employee")
- Registered (under 5 years)
- Don't know

What best describes your accommodation in Jersey

- Owner occupied
- Qualified rent
- Non-qualified accommodation
- Other (please specify):

4. Non-Jersey born

Are you living in Jersey because...

- I came as a child with family
- I came here for work reasons
- I moved here with my partner or to be with my family
- I used to live here and wanted to come back
- Other (please specify):

Which best describes your situation

- I'm settled and Jersey is my permanent home
- I'm staying in Jersey for now but plan to return to the place I regard as home
- I'm staying in Jersey for now but plan to move elsewhere
- I don't have any plans to leave Jersey, but don't think I'll always live here
- Other (please specify):

5. Jersey-born

Tick all the reasons that you have lived outside Jersey for 12 months or more

- I have never lived outside of Jersey for more than a year
- university
- job
- travelling
- Other (please specify):

Which of these best describes your situation

- I consider Jersey my permanent home and I have no plans to leave
- I'm staying in Jersey for now but have plans to move away
- I'm staying in Jersey for now but don't think I'll always live here.
- Other (please specify):

6. Leaving Jersey?

If you plan to leave the Island in the next 5 years, what is the main reason?

- my contract is ending
- there are better job prospects elsewhere
- because of relationships with family and friends
- more cultural and social activities elsewhere
- high cost of living in Jersey
- high cost of housing in Jersey
- no plans to leave Jersey
- Other (please specify):

7. Satisfaction with life in Jersey

How much do you enjoy living in Jersey?

- Very dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Neutral
- Satisfied
- Very satisfied

How do you feel as part of the community in Jersey?

- Very positive
- Positive
- Neutral
- Negative
- Very negative

8. The impacts of a changing population

To what degree do you agree/disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
It's too hard for local families to find a home to purchase	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are too many people in Jersey – the Island is already overcrowded	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People from outside Jersey bring new ideas and innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is too much traffic on the roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The government should set a target figure for the Island's population	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We need to import skilled workers if Jersey is to remain open for business	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Businesses need staff to expand, to maintain our economy and support the cost of running public services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jersey has welcomed migrants for hundreds of years and they are part of our local culture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We are damaging the environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A population figure tells us nothing, it's about quality of life for the people who live here	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We have an ageing population and are going to need workers to come to Jersey to help with pension and health costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In your opinion, is the number of people living in Jersey today

- too low
- about right
- too high
- I don't know

Why do you think this?

9. What can Government do?

Below are a series of options that could be considered as we develop a new population policy. Each will have benefits and costs, economically, politically, and on our wider community. Please select a minimum of THREE and maximum of FIVE options you believe should be the priorities for Government in developing a population policy. "As an Island, we should..."

- ...invest in lifelong learning so that local workers can be retrained to adapt to new jobs and technology, to reduce the need for more migrants
- ...increase the state pension age and encourage older people to stay in work for longer to reduce the need for more migrants
- ...improve educational outcomes for all children so that local young people are well trained to work in the local economy to reduce the need for more migrants
- ...increase the supply of new homes so that everyone living in Jersey has good quality accommodation
- ...support local businesses that take steps to reduce the need for migrants by using new technology (AI, robotics, etc) to improve their productivity
- ...provide more support to migrants to integrate into the local community
- ...encourage local students to return to the Island after completing their higher education
- ...focus our economy on higher value sectors, to reduce the total number of workers needed to maintain our economy and public services
- ...live within our means, significantly reduce migration and move to an economy that is not based on continual growth.
- ...increase taxes to reduce the need to bring in more migrants help pay for increasing health and pension costs as the local population ages

Comments:

10. What are you prepared to do?

Below are a series of actions Islanders could take, to help reduce the number of migrant workers needed in the future. Please indicate if you personally agree or disagree with taking these actions.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I would pay more taxes or user charges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would carry on working past normal retirement age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would accept a reduction in the quality or range of public services that I use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do nothing - I think we should encourage workers to come to Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would accept less choice and/or higher costs in shops and local businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

11. Measuring success

How do you think future governments should measure whether their population policy has been successful?

In 50 years' time, what is your vision for Jersey for yourself, and the children and young people growing up in the Island today ?

Thank you for your feedback. Please add any further comments you would like to make about Jersey's population or the actions Government could consider.