

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT CONTROL OF HOUSING AND WORK (JERSEY) LAW 201- (P.37/2011): AMENDMENT (P.37/2011 Amd.) – AMENDMENT

**Lodged au Greffe on 27th June 2011
by the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel**

STATES GREFFE

DRAFT CONTROL OF HOUSING AND WORK (JERSEY) LAW 201- (P.37/2011):
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For the words “Minister for Housing” substitute the words “Minister for Social Security”.

CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

REPORT

The amendment of Deputy S. Power of St. Brelade makes a strong case of the Population Office not to be located within that of the Chief Minister.

It should be noted that the Housing Department is to be restructured, which means that it will be in a state of flux for some time.

Whilst the Housing Department was previously and for some considerable time responsible for handling the Housing Permits for 'j' category residents, it is not clear that this will be the most effective place to locate the Population Office in the future.

The Social Security Department is effectively the pivotal Department in this area, in that it links with the Health and Social Services and Housing Departments as well as being a centre of employment opportunities. Furthermore, Social Security is the first port of call for all newly arrived immigrants to the Island. Under the existing Regulations, Social Security issues social security cards and, under the proposed Regulations, it will be the Department which will issue the new Registration Cards.

Social Security has the relevant information relating to many of the job opportunities in the Island and to the levels of unemployment in the Island. It is therefore particularly well-placed to evaluate whether the numbers of immigrants are such that the aims of the Strategic Plan are being exceeded. This "gatekeeper" function will be improved if the Population Office is located within the Department.

Financial and manpower implications

There are no additional resource implications arising from this amendment as the function will merely be transferring from one department to another.