

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER  
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER**

**ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY, 24th OCTOBER 2006**

**Question**

Would the Chief Minister inform members –

- (a) what progress, if any, has been made to date in the establishment of a population register?
- (b) whether or not the future scheme will involve some form of identity card and, if so, would he advise members whether the data will be made secure and, if so, at what cost?
- (c) what information, if any, will be attached to any ‘unique identifier’ produced by the register?
- (d) which departments are actively engaged in working to produce the register?
- (e) what level of liaison, if any, has there been with the Data Protection Registrar?
- (f) what timescale is envisaged for law drafting and bringing this project to the States?
- (g) whether the current proposed timetable is realistic in light of progress made to date?

**Answer**

- (a) The Migration Advisory Group recently considered proposals for a ‘population register’. These proposals followed meetings with Information Services (formerly Computer Services), as well as the Data Protection Commissioner. These proposals are now being shaped into drafting instructions following consideration by the Migration Advisory Group, with a view to bringing the draft law to the Assembly in the second quarter of 2007.
- (b) Registration for the purposes of the ‘population register’ will be combined with Social Security registration to provide a simple, one stop shop to customers, and to reduce administration. It has been concluded by the Migration Advisory Group that it would be sensible for the combined registration document or card to incorporate a method of establishing identity, as registration will govern access to employment and housing, and potentially a range of other public services.

Information will be maintained on a secure database, and will be subject to the full range of States security procedures. Security measures have already been developed as part of the States information network, and they are applied as a matter of course in new data systems. The costs associated with their implementation in this case are therefore considered to be marginal.

- (c) No information will be maintained on the ‘population register’ other than name, date of birth, address, and possibly employer details. A unique personal reference will enable a person to be linked to their place of residence, and possibly, employment. All other information will continue to be maintained on departmental systems.
- (d) The Population Office is working with officers from Information Services who are responsible for partnering a range of departments. These departments include Social Security, Economic Development, and Health and Social Services. Other departments will become involved as the work progresses.
- (e) The Data Protection Commissioner has been liaised with, and consulted, at each stage in the development of

proposals.

- (f) As previously notified to the States, a Law will be brought to the Assembly in the second quarter of 2007, with implementation of the corporate database in the second quarter of 2008.
- (g) The complexity of a project of this nature should not be underestimated, and indeed, the timescales are ambitious. Good progress continues to be made however, on the law drafting instructions and on proposals for the system's architecture. Accordingly, timescales are considered achievable based on work to date.