

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

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY, 16th JANUARY 2007

Question

Would the Chief Minister inform members what progress, if any, has been made towards co-ordination between the Population Office, the Health and Social Services Department, the Social Security Department and the Data Protection Commissioner over the Population Register?

Answer

The work on developing a Population Register is progressing steadily, both in terms of the practical arrangements and the law which will be brought to the States who will ultimately decide the form and nature of the Register.

The Data Protection Commissioner is closely involved in the project in terms of ensuring that any proposals are likely to be data protection compliant. The final proposal will be formally presented for her consideration before being presented to the States.

The Migration Policy approved by the States envisaged very close connections between the Social Security system and the Population Register. This original expectation is being confirmed as the project progresses and thus close links are being maintained with the Social Security Department.

Work is also underway with Health and Social Services. The Medical Officer of Health and her professional colleagues have identified that improving health screening rates will save lives. In her annual report the Medical Officer of Health identified the need for a Health Screening database as one means of achieving this. It is therefore intended to create such a database using the same technology as would be used to create the Population Register. The index is to be compiled from health records to be used for health purposes and will be fully data protection compliant. However, health screening data will not be re-used in any future Population Register – it is the technology that will be re-usable.