

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
BY DEPUTY R.G. LE HÉRISSEIER OF ST. SAVIOUR
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2013**

Question

Would the Minister advise whether one of the last remaining sizable fulfilment companies has left the Island and, if so, would he state the reasons why and whether States policies or that of its agencies played a role?

Answer

It is difficult to accurately respond to this question, without being aware of the identity of the company to which the Deputy is referring.

It is a matter of public knowledge that the two largest fulfilment companies historically based in Jersey have significantly scaled back their operations and in the case of one of them, closed down their fulfilment operations in the Island completely.

These changes to operations are as a direct consequence of the decision by the UK Government to reduce, and then subsequently remove, Low Value Consignment Relief for packages originating in the Channel Islands. As the Deputy will be aware, as Minister I vigorously challenged this decision at both UK Ministerial level and through the High Court in the UK highlighting at the time the combined economic & employment impacts that it would most likely have in Jersey.

In that context, it was not States policy that primarily influenced the commercial decisions made by the fulfilment companies involved and my Department, ably supported by the Attorney General and the Law Officers, expended considerable time, effort and expense in an attempt to mitigate the likely effects of decisions taken elsewhere.

My Department continues to work closely with the remaining fulfilment companies in attempts to identify new market opportunities that will allow the sector to maintain – or even grow? – their continued presence in the Island.