

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY M. TADIER OF ST. BRELADE
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 19th JANUARY 2016**

Question

Will the Chief Minister state how many Islanders are estimated to have a disability, including, but not limited to, epilepsy and blindness (partial or complete) which prevents them from being able to drive?

Answer

The results of the Health & Life Opportunities survey¹ estimates the number of islanders to have a disability, as defined under the UK Equality Act 2010², to be 13,900 Jersey residents, which is 14% of the population.

The survey also captured detail on functional impairments. 16% of all individuals are reported to having at least 'some difficulty' seeing, even if wearing glasses. This equates to 14,112 Jersey residents. Of the respondents to the survey, 2% reported having 'severe difficulty' seeing, even if wearing glasses. This would equate to 2,016 Jersey residents.

A proportion of those with a disability or functional impairment would be prevented from being able to drive, but we do not have an estimate of the precise number of individuals this would affect. There is no data available on the number of islanders with individual conditions, including epilepsy. However, further qualitative research is being carried out this year to inform the disability strategy which is being developed. This research will help us understand how people's disabilities impact on their lives.

¹ The Health & Life Opportunities Survey was carried out by Public Perspectives in September to October 2015. The survey was sent to 10,000 random households on the island and received a 42% response rate. This equates to a sample accuracy or error rate of +/-1.9% at the 99% confidence level. This means that we can be 99% confident that the "real" result for any given question would be at least within 1.9% of those stated within the survey findings. This provides for robust data when analysed at a headline level

² Someone is defined as disabled under the UK Equality Act 2010 if they have a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expected to last 12 months or more which reduces their ability to carry out day to day activities a little or a lot.