

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 2nd JULY 2019**

Question

Will the Chief Minister explain to members why the target of net inward migration of 325 people per year has not been met in each of the past 4 years?

Answer

The last agreed population policy P.10/2014 ‘Interim population policy: 2014-2015’ was voted on by the Assembly on 1st May 2014. This did not set a target but agreed a ‘planning assumption’ of +325 people per year for the period of the policy. It is not for me to comment on a target set by a previous Government, however it is worth noting that population growth has not been at this level since 2003 (with an increase of +300) and with the lowest annual growth of the last ten years being an increase of +800 in 2009.

I understand the significance of the current net inward migration figures and the difficult decisions that will need to be made by this Government, and in due course this Assembly, if we are all serious about reducing the island’s reliance on inward migration.

There is no simple answer to doing this and that is why in August 2018 I requested Statistics Jersey to research a body of work on ‘Estimating government receipts and expenditure for Jersey households’, which was published in April. In March 2019 I also established the Migration Policy Development Board to look at the inter-related and complex issues involved in producing realistic and effective options.

The recently published population figures demonstrate a reducing net migration rate and I am pleased with the progress that the Assistant Chief Minister has made in utilising the current controls that Government has to help reduce the rate of net inward migration.

There is much more work to be done, but I expect to have a properly researched, relevant and realistic interim report out for initial consultation with invited parties in the autumn of 2019, with the migration policy going to the Council of Ministers in the first quarter of 2020, for onwards debate by the Assembly. All minutes and reports of the Migration Policy Development Board are published on line at:

www.gov.je/migrationpolicy

To date the MPDB has held 8 meetings:

	<u>Agenda</u>	<u>Speakers</u>	<u>Presentations/papers considered</u>
<u>Meeting 1:</u> 07 March	Agreed the Board’s terms of reference, scope and invitees	N/A	N/A
<u>Meeting 2:</u> 21 March	Current migration & population controls	Acting Assistant Director, Immigration & Nationality, JCIS.	Immigration controls & work permits Control of Housing of Work (Jersey) Law

		Senior Manager, Business Licensing, CLS Housing Control Manager, CLS	Fiscal Policy Panel Advice for 2020-2023 Government Plan
<u>Meeting 3:</u> 04 April	Estimating Government receipts & expenditure from Jersey households	Statistician, Statistics Jersey	Statistics Jersey – estimating Government receipts & expenditure from Jersey households
<u>Meeting 4:</u> 18 April	Jersey demographics	Statistician, Statistics Jersey Chief Statistician, Statistics Jersey Senior Economist, Chief Minister’s Department	Population estimate 2017 Long term revenue v expenditure
<u>Meeting 5:</u> 16 May	Previous population policy Future workflows	Head of Ministerial Support Unit, Corporate Policy Group Director Policy, SPPP	Migration systems in other parts of the world
<u>Meeting 6:</u> 30 May	Migrant access to services	Director, SPPP Policy Principal, Immigration & Migration	Discussion paper (pending)
<u>Meeting 7:</u> 13 June	Skills and labour shortages	Director, Education	Discussion paper (pending)
<u>Meeting 8:</u> 27 June	Infrastructure, Housing & the Environment	Director of Strategy & Innovation, SPPP Assistant Director, Planning & Environment Assistant Director, Social Policy Policy Principal, Housing	

The MPDB has the following meetings planned:

<u>Meeting 9:</u> 11 July	Identify areas for policy proposal development over summer recess		
------------------------------	---	--	--