

Chief Minister



19-21 Broad Street | St Helier
Jersey | JE2 4WE

Senator S.W. Pallett
Chair, Migration and Population Review Panel

BY EMAIL

2 November 2021

Dear Senator Pallett

Thank you for your letter dated 26 October 2021 in which you raise a number of questions that I have addressed below:

Lodging and debate

All States Members have been advised of the reasons for the short delay to the lodging of the Population Policy, and I have made myself available to any Member who wishes to discuss the matter in more detail.

I am keen that there should be full Scrutiny of the Population Policy and I am happy to accept your request to delay the debate from 18 January to 8 February 2022 to give the Migration and Population Review Panel the extra time that it needs to do that.

Consultation results and analysis

I am also keen to maintain the engagement of, and constructive dialogue with, the Migration and Population Review Panel and will gladly supply the Panel with the results of the consultation as soon as they are available.

Control of Housing and Work Law (CHWL) amendments

Extra time has been needed to undertake a more thorough review of the revised law than was originally envisaged. We now anticipate lodging the CHWL amendments by 22 December for debate on 1 March 2022, giving a period of 10 weeks for review.

Communication

You are correct to point out the current limitations on the scope of the first population policy which are due principally to the lack of robust and timely data. As such, the first policy will lay out clear foundations and processes within which future population policies will be developed. In itself, it will not lead to immediate changes in migration controls. That said, the Assembly has already agreed P.137/2020 which sets out a framework for more responsive controls; public knowledge in this area is being regularly reinforced through ongoing dialogue with business and community stakeholders. It is likely that the second annual population policy to be published at the end of 2022 will be the first opportunity for the new Council of Ministers to set out their own approach to population matters and to announce the way they intend to exercise the controls available in the updated CHWL.

I look forward to lodging the CHWL amendments and the Population Policy with the Assembly and, as always, I am open to answer any further queries you may have in the meantime.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Deputy R.E. Huelin
Assistant Chief Minister

Cc: Senator J.A.N. Le Fondré, Chief Minister