



States Greffe: Scrutiny

Deputy Rowland Huelin
Assistant Chief Minister

12th March 2021

Dear Assistant Chief Minister,

Migration and Population Review Panel

Request in relation to in-committee debate on population issues

I would like to start by offering my congratulations on guiding P.137/2020 Migration Control Policy through the States Assembly debate on 3rd March 2020. Members have shown their joint commitment to progressing this matter and to exploring the options which will provide the best outcome for Jersey.

The Panel was interested to hear, following the debate, that the next step on this road was your proposal, accepted by the Assembly, to hold an in-committee debate on 'general population issues' during the sitting on 23rd March 2020. In the interests of ensuring that this debate is as helpful as possible to the development of policy later this year, the Panel would be grateful for an indication of the structure that you intend to put in place for the debate, the specific topics you envisage covering, what your primary aim is in holding it and your expectations of the outcome. As an example, the Panel feels that the notice and information provided ahead of the in-committee debate on the Bridging Island Plan provided a good basis for Members to formulate their views and questions, on an informed basis, ahead of the debate.

The Panel is very keen to see that the conversation on migration control and population policy moves on in a helpful and expedient way and our concern is that without a clear structure for Members, provided in advance, the debate may not provide the well-informed and thoughtful views needed to achieve this goal. We note that the themes from the debate earlier this month were consistent with the findings and recommendations made in our report R6/2021 and centred, for the most part, on a need for clarity and for an understanding of the data that will be provided this year to underpin the evidence-based policy you are seeking to bring forward later this year.

Please do let me know if there is any information that this Panel can provide which would be helpful and we look forward to your response if this could please be forwarded by Tuesday 16th March 2020.

Yours sincerely,

Senator Steve Pallett
Chair, Migration and Population Review Panel

cc. Chief Minister, Senator John Le Fondré