

## Economic Development

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Deputy Deidre Mezbourian  
Education & Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel  
Morier House,  
Halkett Place,  
St Helier  
JE1 1DD

14 May 2008

Dear Deputy Mezbourian,

### Customs and Immigration Review

As you rightly point out in your letter of 6 May 2008, Economic Development policies have led to an increase in passenger traffic through our ports.

Our policies are clearly laid out in the States of Jersey Strategic Plan 2006-2011 and in subsequent Economic Development Department Business Plans. We understand that a growth in visitor numbers will lead to implications for other departments such as Home Affairs and Health but our primary concern remains economic growth. This growth brings additional tax revenue to the Treasury, something that has also been budgeted for.

It is inconceivable to think that Economic Development would contribute financially to the services provided by the Customs and Immigration Service. If we were to go down that road we could end up paying for additional policing costs for events to the States of Jersey Police, for additional garden costs to TT&S, for additional refuse collection costs to the Parish of St Helier and for additional costs for the provision of medical services to the Health Department. I repeat that our mission is to grow the economy by at least 2% per annum, something which we have more than achieved now for a number of years on a very limited budget.

My officers have of course engaged in talks with their colleagues in the Home Affairs Department, in particular with Customs & Immigration and we will continue to do everything in our power to help them carry out the valuable service they provide in an efficient and rational manner. If this entails changes to operational procedures I will ensure that Jersey Harbours and Jersey Airport engage fully in these talks.

I expect that your Panel will explore the application of a user pays policy to this issue. Any additional increase in transport costs to the Island could have a detrimental effect on visitor numbers and could be counter productive to the work that we in Economic Development are doing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip Ozouf".

**Senator Philip Ozouf**  
Minister for Economic Development

cc. Tim Oldham