

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT REGISTER OF NAMES AND ADDRESSES (AMENDMENT)(JERSEY) LAW 202- (P.56/2023): COMMENTS

**Presented to the States on 29th September 2023
by the Privileges and Procedures Committee**

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The Proposition lodged by the Chief Minister proposes amendments to the Register of Names and Addresses (Jersey) Law 2012 to permit the Minister to supply certain information about Jersey residents from the names and addresses register to credit reference agencies.

Unlike the UK electoral register which is used to provide information on consumers' current address, the Jersey electoral register is not supplied to credit reference agencies as it is not permissible under the Elections (Jersey) Law 2002.

Before the Elections Law was introduced, concerns were expressed about allowing wider access to electoral registers which could be used by commercial bodies and therefore the ability to hold a copy of a register was limited to election candidates who must register as a data controller for that specific purpose and comply with the Data Protection (Jersey) Law 2018. Candidates cannot use the electoral register or any other personal data obtained during the election campaign for any other purpose and must safely destroy or return any copies after the election.

Whilst the Committee is supportive of this proposition, it wants to ensure that Members do not conflate this amendment with ongoing work to produce a digital electoral register. This alteration to the Register of Names and Addresses Law will not impact upon existing electoral registration processes in Jersey and only addresses the credit issue. In conjunction with colleagues across the Government and Parishes, the Committee is currently undertaking a project to create a live time digital electoral register, which can be used all year round for Parish elections and also every four years for elections of Members to the States Assembly.

The Government Plan 2024 - 2027 includes a bid to meet the cost of reforming and digitising the registration process, making inclusion automatic once Islanders are eligible to vote and, more importantly, providing greater flexibility as to where people can cast their votes at future elections.

Comment under Standing Order 37A

This comment was not provided to the Greffier of the States before 12.00 p.m. on 29th September 2023 as a quorum of the Committee had not approved the comment by that time.