

2.7 Deputy G.P. Southern of the Assistant Minister for Planning regarding the terms of reference for the Jersey Retail Study into the impact of a third supermarket:

Will the Assistant Minister inform Members of the terms of reference for the Jersey retail study currently being undertaken by DTZ for the Planning and Environment Department into the impact of a third supermarket?

The Deputy of Trinity (Assistant Minister for Planning):

Since the adoption of the new Island Plan 2002 a number of significant issues and changes have arisen which require particular aspects of the Plan to be reviewed, and if necessary changed to reflect the new circumstances and objectives. Retail plays a significant part in the economy of Jersey and has specific land issues related to it, some of which are controlled by policies in the Island Plan. DTZ are leading specialists in retail planning and they have been commissioned to provide a comprehensive appraisal of retail provision and future retail requirements in Jersey. DTZ were not tasked specifically to consider the impact of a third supermarket operator but rather to consider all aspects of retailing. The DTZ report will probably be available in June and the Minister is more than happy to share this with the Deputy and other Members at that time. In the meantime, he has tabled copies of the specific DTZ brief and a copy is on Members' desks.

2.7.1 Deputy G.P. Southern:

I thank the Minister for her answer. Could I ask further; the second of these items says: "These projections should be for 15 years from 2009 for each of the population growth scenarios that the States of Jersey are now considering." Could she state whether these scenarios are the scenarios referred to in Imagine Jersey exercise and do they refer to a range of up to 625 heads of household or up to 625 inward migrants.

The Deputy of Trinity:

That is a very specific question, Sir, and I think I would need time to get the answer and come back to this House because I do not want to give any false information.

2.7.2 Deputy G.P. Southern:

Thank you. If I may, Sir, further on? Could the Minister state whether the survey, which she describes as comprehensive, does it address the potential for the size of the workforce required for a potential third supermarket operator and what size would that be? Would that be an additional 200 fairly low skilled jobs, an additional 500 or what? What projections are being made for the additional labour required in this comprehensive survey?

The Deputy of Trinity:

I am sorry, Sir, again that is a very specific question and I will come back to the House with that answer.

2.7.3 Deputy R.G. Le Hérisier:

Would the Assistant Minister not acknowledge there is total confusion about this issue? For example, the questioner who one would have thought would be committed to cheaper food on this Island seems to be preoccupied with the extension of the low cost labour force. Is this not yet another further study to defer and defer and defer?

The Deputy of Trinity:

This study is important as it will form part of the Island Plan review, which you know has got many different parts to it and the D.T.Z. are leading specialists and these results will be important.