

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 9th OCTOBER 2012**

Question

Given the relatively small changes in dependency ratios produced by large increases in population revealed in the States of Jersey Statistics Unit's long-term population projections, what commitment, if any, will the Chief Minister give to maintaining the Island's population at or around 100,000?

Answer

The Statistics Unit released their long-term population projections on the 21st September, and the analysis of this model is now underway, including in relation to dependency ratios and social, economic and environmental considerations, with a view to undertaking a public consultation in the New Year, and a States Debate in July, 2013, on the Population Policy.

It is clearly premature in advance of this analysis, engagement and debate, to make a commitment as Chief Minister as to what the population should be. In the meantime, we have set a very clear direction within the Strategic Plan of limiting immigration pending the debate in July, 2013.