WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022 ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2022

Question

"Following the response of the Deputy Chief Minister to Oral Question 25/2022, stating that the Government is committed to publishing the results of the Household Income Distribution Survey and that "the aim is to publish them within the first quarter", will the Chief Minister confirm that the results will be so published and if not, will he explain why not?"

Answer

Having consulted with the Chief Statistician, I can confirm that Statistics Jersey aim to publish the results from the curtailed 2019-20 Living Costs and Household Income Survey by the end of March. Further to the answer provided to WQ.184/2021, Statistics Jersey have dedicated an experienced analyst to complete the quality assurance, coding and analysis of the data obtained prior to the fieldwork being suspended in March 2020.

The Council of Ministers are keen to ensure that this important data is published as soon as possible and before the June 2022 election. Notwithstanding this, it is important to note that, further to WQ.145/2021, Statistics Jersey is an apolitical body formally constituted under the Statistics and Census (Jersey) Law 2018. Under Article 7(2) of this Law "The (Chief) Minister must not influence any decision of the Chief Statistician in the exercise of his or her responsibilities under Article 3(1)". This includes "(g) the form, timing and methods of dissemination of statistics compiled by Statistics Jersey".