

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2015 – 2018 (P.27/2015): SEVENTH AMENDMENT (P.27/2015 Amd.(7)) – COMMENTS

**Presented to the States on 27th April 2015
by the Council of Ministers**

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

Amendment 7(1)

The Council of Ministers strongly recommends that this amendment be rejected.

The Council of Ministers believes that the Island's approach to immigration is a critical issue for our future, especially as our population ages.

If we want limited migration and economic growth so we can fund services, we must improve productivity.

This is the essence of our approved migration policy – it focuses on generating the most economic and social value from the migration we do permit, and in doing so, it focuses on individual businesses which employ more migrant workers than their competitors. This emphasis on productivity, on working smarter, on generating more, lies at the heart of the Council of Ministers' economic policies, including for the retail and hospitality sectors.

The thrust of this amendment is that some businesses are treated less fairly than others; that they do not receive enough permissions to employ migrants; and that this has proved difficult for some businesses. This amendment, to some extent then, demonstrates that our decisions and controls do have an effect.

These are difficult decisions. We want a system that is fair, reasonable, practical, and constructive – and improvements in our processes are being made as part of the recent move of the Population Office to the Social Security Department, working alongside the 'back to work' team supporting Islanders into work.

We also need to be very clear that migration has benefited this Island over many generations: indeed, half our population was not born in Jersey; and sectors such as hospitality and retail have a genuinely important role to play (having also seen positive employment growth in the last 12 months).

Indeed, the hospitality sector has more permissions for migrant workers than any other sector. Outside its peak season, it employs a third of all migrants in the Island, with a third of its workforce being migrant labour. The hospitality sector plainly then, has a much more favourable position than other sectors, having historically struggled to attract local people, and contributing most significantly toward immigration into Jersey.

Ultimately, if this amendment is calling for all businesses to be treated the same when it comes to granting even more permissions, then we are not being serious about limiting migration and growing our economy. Instead, the Council of Ministers believes there are better ways to support industry: for example, the development of "Visit Jersey", back to work, training, and support for innovation.

Accordingly, the Council of Ministers asks the Assembly to reject this amendment.

**Analysis of migrant employment by sector and residential status
(as at 31st December 2014)**

Sector	Total registered and licensed	Entitled/ Entitled to work	Total	% workforce registered and licensed	Gross Value Added per FTE (£,000) (2013)
Hotels, Restaurants and Bars	1,700	3,440	5,140	33%	30
Financial and Legal Activities	1,350	11,400	12,750	11%	130
Wholesale and Retail Trades	620	7,440	8,060	8%	38
Miscellaneous Business Activities	610	4,060	4,670	13%	39 (both sectors combined)
Education, Health and Other Services	570	6,170	6,740	8%	
Agriculture and Fishing	450	1,000	1,450	31%	32
Construction and Quarrying	290	4,760	5,050	6%	45
Transport, Storage and Communication	150	2,530	2,680	6%	62
Other	150	2,090	2,240	7%	N/A
TOTAL:	5,890	42,890	48,780	12%	64

Amendment 7(2)(a)

The Council of Ministers accepts this amendment.

In 2008, the States Assembly debated P.60/2008, 'Esplanade Quarter, St. Helier: Masterplan' relating to the development of the Esplanade Quarter. This was approved, subject to amendments of the Connétable of St. Helier and the Council of Ministers such that the guaranteed payments by the developer to the States would be ring-fenced for the regeneration of St. Helier and adjacent urban areas. While this agreement has passed, the principle that the funds generated should be used for regeneration remains applicable.

It is worth noting, however, that the funds will not be available for a number of years; and that some mechanism to determine which projects would be funded will be needed.

Amendment 7(3)

The Council of Ministers accepts this amendment.

The Council of Ministers fully supports the principle of improving quality of life in St. Helier, and accepts this amendment as wholly consistent with that objective, but in doing so wishes to be clear that an efficient partnership between the Parish and the Transport and Technical Services Department exists, and that much good work already takes place, for example –

- In 2013, 89% of people rated the cleanliness of Jersey’s roads and pavements as ‘very good’ or ‘good’ (compared to 76% in 2007); and 61% were satisfied with the cleanliness of public toilets (compared to 49% in 2007).
- In 2014, 88% of people living in St. Helier considered their neighbourhood to be very or fairly safe, compared with 76% in 2010, which was a significant increase.

Amendment 7(4)

The Council of Ministers accepts this amendment.

The Council of Ministers believes that safe and convenient cycle and pedestrian routes are important, and accordingly accept this amendment.

Amendment 7(5)

The Council of Ministers accepts this amendment.

The Connétable of St. Helier presents in his amendment a description of retail that is based around different areas with their own distinctive identity. The Council of Ministers welcomes and agrees with this, believing it fits within an overall vision of St. Helier as a town that people enjoy living in, working in, and visiting. This vision of distinct retail areas aligns neatly with the concept of more open space, which could complement these areas, and the ability to move around the town easily. On a cautionary note, the Council of Ministers, however, also believes that we need to be realistic and commercially driven in retail strategy.

As to the importance of heritage and the evening economy, this is fully accepted, in particular, the importance of our evening economy being “welcoming” and the need for an effective and efficient licensing regime.

Amendment 7(6)(a) and (b)

The Council of Ministers accepts this amendment.

The Council of Ministers agree that there should be fairness between the burdens that are placed on ratepayers and taxpayers for the funding of municipal and public

services, including public spaces, and also believes that improvements in the provision of those services should take place as part of a “new partnership”.

To support this, the Council of Ministers will provide in the Medium Term Financial Plan for the payment of rates, should this amendment be accepted.

In recognition that this must be funded, the Medium Term Financial Plan will also include additional income to support this payment. This will be brought forward to the Assembly for separate approval as part of an overall package for the funding and provision of municipal services. It will seek to do this in close co-operation with parochial authorities. It follows that the payment of rates will be contingent on the identification and approval of this income stream, and an agreement for the fair and reasonable funding and efficient and effective provision of municipal services.

Amendment 7(7)

The Council of Ministers recommends that this amendment be rejected.

The responsibilities of the Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC) include keeping under review the composition of the Assembly. To further this, the Committee has, after discussions with the Chief Minister, established a joint PPC/Executive Sub-Committee, comprising 2 members of PPC who are not Ministers or Assistant Ministers and 2 who are Assistant Ministers. The Sub-Committee will naturally prioritise issues of equity in representation, and that includes matters such as the representation of residents of St. Helier in the Assembly. In the next few months, it is understood that the Sub-Committee will engage with States Members as a first step.

The Council of Ministers does believe that increased equity in representation is important, but considers the Sub-Committee to be the proper vehicle for advancing change, and that a single principle should not be established in advance of the work of the Sub-Committee.

Accordingly, the Council of Ministers asks the Assembly to reject this amendment.