

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY, 21st NOVEMBER 2006

Question

In answer to my question 3074 of 7th November 2006, the Minister informed members that the post of Retail Strategy Manager resulted from transfer from another part of the department. Will he state which part? Will he also state when he expects to be in a position to report on the 'concept capitalisation of high margins' and the impact of high rents on the retail sector?

Answer

The post of Strategy Manager – Retail sector was transferred from the Tourism section of Economic Development. The officer previously held the post of Trade Relations Manager, and this role has been merged with the post of Communications Manager at Jersey Tourism.

With regard to the question of when I will be in a position to report on the "concept capitalisation of high margins". I have no comments to make apart from those expressed in my answer on 7th November. Concerning the second part of the question I outlined a series of actions that Economic Development are taking to develop and support the retail sector, and that this process will be underpinned by ongoing consultation with the industry in order to gain a full understanding of the retail economy to inform policy making. If rental levels are highlighted by the industry as an issue that needs addressing as part of our strategy development we will develop an appropriate programme of work to identify what actions, if any, might be appropriate.