

Migration and Population Review Panel

Review of Migration Control Policy (Phase 1) – response to written questions

<p>1. What preliminary work, aside from the work of the Migration Policy Development Board, have you undertaken with the Council of Ministers to begin work on a Common Population Policy?</p>	<p>Transcript:</p> <p>Assistant Chief Minister:</p> <p>I am working very closely with the officers at the moment to put a compressed timescale plan in place in order to try to get a population policy lodged. It has got to be lodged by I think late October, if it is going to be debated in 2021. The compressed timetable obviously has its significant challenges. One of the areas I have learned in my reading is very little has changed over the last 5 or 10 years. The same questions are still being asked and the same issues are still outstanding. I am working on ways to try not to reinvent the wheel but also make sure that nothing that has materially changed is not included in our deliberations. I have got some ideas in order to, shall we say, shortcut without compromising the process but they are still in draft mode and I will be delighted to</p>
--	--

	<p>share them with you when they are delivered. You are going to ask when and the answer to that is imminent.</p> <p>Additional response: Meetings are planned with COM over the next few months</p>
<p>a. What influence will Assistant Ministers and non-executive Members have on creating the Common Population Policy?</p>	<p>Transcript:</p> <p>Assistant Chief Minister: transcript</p> <p>I have had an informal gathering to share some ideas, which I am working towards formalising and extending out invitations to other Members of the Assembly who wish to partake in those deliberations.</p>
<p>2. Are you optimistic that a Common Population Policy can be delivered in the time this Assembly has left?</p>	<p>Transcript:</p> <p>Assistant Chief Minister:</p> <p>The answer to that is no, however we have been asked to deliver it and my biggest fear is it will be a compromise solution that will not necessarily stack up to the heavy scrutiny that it should do and deserves to do. Yes, I am concerned about it because you have mentioned a lot of the deliberations and consultations we would like to take place, certainly with the Children’s Commissioner, et</p>

	<p>cetera. Yes, I do fear that with all the other major issues that are going on in the Island at the moment we might not be able to do it as well as we would like and as well as the Island would want us to do.</p> <p>Additional response: Ministers are under an obligation to present a policy to the Assembly for debate by the end of this year. We are working to achieve this timetable.</p>
<p>3. How will you monitor, track and account for the interests of various departments when creating the common policy?</p>	<p>A common policy will need to involve all ministers and departments and this will be incorporated into the plan for the year</p>
<p>a. Will performance indicators and similar standards of reporting be published and provided to the Assembly on a regular basis to help understand how the Common Population Policy may or should evolve?</p>	<p>Yes, the collation and publication of data will be a key element of the ongoing population policy.</p>
<p>4. Are you minded of any major changes that could be made to the proposed policy when considering the effects of Brexit and COVID-19? What work has been undertaken to simulate the effect these issues may have on the development of a Common Population Policy?</p>	<p>The policy will be developed during the year and will take full account of Brexit and covid issues</p>

<p>a. Do you believe that it is suitable to bring these changes now, given the need to attract further investment in the Island as a result of Brexit and COVID-19?</p>	<p>Yes, the challenges of Brexit and Covid bring the need for a common population policy into sharp focus. A population policy will adjust from time to time as the needs of the island change. Change is the only constant in life, and the policy will have to be dynamic</p>
<p>b. How has his tied into the development of the proposed changes, and how will you appropriately weight consideration of these issues when developing the final policy?</p>	<p>These issues will be addressed during the development of the policy.</p>
<p>c. How will the use of employment statistics influence the development of this policy and how will you ensure that it is given enough priority?</p>	<p>The collation and publication of data will be a key element of the population policy. This has a very high priority within the plan.</p>
<p>d. What resources have or will be committed to tracking and compiling research on migration into the UK and other relevant jurisdictions, particularly in relation to the issues of Brexit and COVID-19, to improve an understanding of the overall effects of these issues?</p>	<p>P.137 includes the creation of an expert panel under the CHW law. The panel may not be formed during 2021 but project resources are available to ensure that a broad view is taken of international evidence where this is relevant to Jersey.</p>
<p>5. What projections have been created and used to understand housing category demand and its links to Island population?</p>	<p>The Objective Assessment of Housing Needs Report (link) provides an independent assessment of housing needs and this will be used to support the population policy planning</p>

<p>a. How will you ensure that policy areas, such as those raised in our recent hearing, are not siloed, and that Housing and Work policies retain consistency across work programmes?</p>	<p>The proposal to create a common policy on population is designed to create a “whole of government” approach and to avoid siloes.</p>
<p>6. How are you liaising with businesses and community stakeholders on the proposed changes?</p>	<p>The P.137 proposals are based on the work of the MPDB which included two business representatives and an independent member. The MPDB held extensive interviews with business and community stakeholders and a workshop with Chamber of Commerce representatives. We will continue to involve stakeholders as plans are progressed</p>
<p>a. How are you liaising with members of the public on this issue? Will individual islanders who are not representative of businesses or community stakeholders be able to give their views?</p>	<p>The current plan is to provide for a public consultation during 2021.</p>
<p>b. Will a stakeholder list be published or shared with the Panel?</p>	<p>All MPDB minutes are published online. www.gov.je/migrationpolicy We are happy to share any additional stakeholder lists with the Panel.</p>
<p>7. Do you believe that, given the current issues surrounding the Pandemic, economic recovery, and other areas, that the ‘Next Steps’ timetable outlined on page 38 of the proposition remains accurate, and will a new timetable be issued as soon as possible should delays become apparent?</p>	<p>Yes, there will be some slippage from this timetable for the reasons identified to the Panel and a new timetable will be shared with the Panel as soon as possible.</p>

<p>a. How much work has been completed on the development and implementation of the new IT system for the associated operational processing and collation of migration data? Can we expect the system to be in place by the projected month of September 2021?</p>	<p>Planning for the new IT system has started and it is anticipated that the system will be operational by the end of 2021. A £1 million budget has been allocated for 2021.</p>
<p>8. How will the review of migrant access to government funded services be conducted? What is its overall aim and policy target?</p>	<p>This work will be undertaken as soon as key operational tasks (IT, data collection, CHW law changes) are further progressed. The aim is to ensure that access to benefits and services is fair and aligned across all areas.</p>
<p>a. You also propose a separate workstream to “consider the impact of the proposed CHW changes on family life and children” (page 8). Please could you outline the details of this workstream and how you intend to ensure that it will have enough of an impact on the creation of a final policy?</p>	<p>Further details are set out on page 36 of the P.137 report. We recognise the importance of this area and a separate review will be undertaken to ensure that these issues are fully considered.</p>
<p>b. What role will key stakeholders, such as the Children’s Commissioner, play in the creation of a final policy?</p>	<p>The Children’s Commissioner will continue to be fully involved in the development of the final policy</p>
<p>9. Has consideration been given to the consequences of the limitations on family members visiting and the potential impact on the diversification of the workforce given that the system will favour single workers without dependents?</p>	<p>The CHW law does not place any restrictions on visitors to the island. The CHW law will not differentiate between single workers and workers with dependants. This query may refer to immigration controls.</p>

<p>10. Please could you provide a clear breakdown on the costs of work permits and immigration costs and clarify whether these are cost neutral or aim to raise revenue.</p>	<p>Work permits and immigration costs are under the control of the Home Affairs Minister.</p> <p>Fees are levied under the CHW law in respect of an individual moving to Jersey and in respect of a business holding various types of permission to employ staff.</p> <p>Full details of the current fee levels are provided here.</p> <p>Part of the income from CHW fees is used to support additional investment in skills and training, as well as covering the cost of the CHW administration itself. Fee income has been significantly reduced in 2020 due to Covid restrictions.</p>
<p>11. Will there be any discretion in the application of the issuing of permits to different industry sectors at any given time as a result of demand and, if so, how will it be applied and who will be making those decisions.</p>	<p>The population policy will set out the overall aim of the government in supporting different industry sectors from time to time.</p> <p>Individual decisions will be made under the CHW law in line with the agreed population policy and published guidelines.</p> <p>Decision making will sit with administrative officers acting within policy and guidelines as far as possible.</p> <p>A panel of States members will make decisions as needed in unusual cases.</p>