



# M.R Emmanuel

## Jewellers

REGISTERED OFFICE: ONYX JEWELLERS, Tunnel Street, ST.HELIER

Tel: (01534) 722762

Email: mremmanuel@hotmail.com

8 Queen Street

St. Helier

Jersey

JE2 4WD

20<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Scrutiny Panel,  
Morier House,  
Halkett Place,  
St Helier  
JE1 1DD

Dear Panel Members,

Can you please explain why some of our politicians seem so hell bent on destroying small businesses. It appears that they only want finance firms and large multi national businesses to survive, thus making Jersey exactly like towns in the UK where small businesses have had to stop trading. Jersey used to be proud to have its own identity but that is now being eroded all the time. Small businesses are already having to fight hard to keep their heads above water with every new bit of legislation pushing them further under as well as all the uncertainty over Brexit making trading very difficult. Many small businesses in Jersey have already had to give up.

This latest Parental Leave Law will be the last straw for many small companies. Only large concerns will be able to cope with this law. No-one is against new parents spending time with their new infant but this is going to destroy small business in Jersey.

If a business employs 3 or 4 staff this means that they will lose either a quarter or a third of their staff intermittently for up to two years or even for a whole year at once with no help from the States. No small company can survive that. There is no way a company can recruit someone for a few months every time a new parent wants time off work. Even if there were people out there willing to work for up to four months then have to leave, which there aren't, they could not even undertake the necessary training to do the job in that time. Training someone to do a particular job takes time and the only people out of work in Jersey are generally untrained people. Also, what if more than one member of staff were to have a child within two years of each other and took their entitled parental leave? And what will happen about Social Security contributions during that time off? Will the employer still have to pay their share since the employee is still officially in their employ? There is no way any small business can cope with this extra burden.

So please, please do not impose this law on small businesses or you will kill all the ones that are still trying to trade under today's very difficult circumstances.

Yours faithfully,

M.R Emmanuel  
Managing Director