

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT CONTROL OF HOUSING AND WORK (JERSEY) LAW 201- (P.37/2011): AMENDMENT (P.37/2011 Amd.) – AMENDMENT (P.37/2011 Amd.Amd.) – COMMENTS

**Presented to the States on 4th July 2011
by the Chief Minister**

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

It is true that the operational links between the Social Security Department and the Population Office will grow considerably should the new Law be approved. However, the core objectives of the Minister for Social Security and his/her Department are not directed toward managing population and immigration, or the availability of housing.

In future, the Social Security Department will be registering new arrivals, issuing registration cards, and de-registering leavers on behalf of the Population Office. There will also continue to be high levels of co-ordination to ensure that locally qualified people, and in particular, unemployed people, obtain work and training in preference to new migrants, with due consideration to the needs of employers. However, many responsibilities under the new Law will not overlap, for example, the allocation of residential status and the categorisation of housing. One therefore has to be careful about expanding the operational span and size of individual Departments, especially when the Social Security Department already has substantial responsibilities in other areas. Instead, the Population Office and Social Security Department can continue to work together effectively and in a “fleet of foot” manner without being joined together.

As to political direction, it is a well-rehearsed decision that the Assembly in 2005 voted overwhelmingly that responsibility should be with the Chief Minister, because decisions should not be directed by any single need, but with a view to the overall best interests of the Island, with reference to immigration and population, and the availability of housing and work. In the Law, these responsibilities will be supported by an advisory group, on which Social Security has an important political role, but this is not the same as considerably expanding the remit of the Minister for Social Security such that he or she directs immigration and population and housing matters.