

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY M.R. HIGGINS OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 19th JANUARY 2016**

Question

Following the expiration of the Council of Ministers Interim Population Policy at the end of 2015, will the Chief Minister advise members what population policy and target figure his officers are working to at the present time and will he further advise members when he will be bringing a new population policy to the States for consideration?

Answer

The Interim Population Policy was put in place while we developed a Long Term Plan for Jersey. It supports limited, targeted migration that delivers economic growth and helps to maintain our quality of life as society ages. The policy established an average net migration of +325 people per year on which to base our planning decisions.

Before working on the Long Term Plan, this Council of Ministers had to propose a Strategic Plan, Medium Term Financial Plan, and 2016 Budget. Now that work is complete, we intend to involve islanders in developing a plan for Jersey for the next 20 years. Population policy will be an integral part of this Long Term Plan, which will be completed this year.

In the meantime, the principles of the Interim Population Policy, as embedded in the Strategic Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan, remain appropriate, and will be applied using the Control of Housing and Work Law until the Long Term Plan is agreed. This will provide stability and continuity while we make important decisions for our long term future.