

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
BY DEPUTY K.G. PAMPLIN OF ST. SAVIOUR
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 9th MARCH 2020**

Question

What assessment has the Minister made of the likely consequences of holding the Island census after the completion of the next Island Plan; and by what means does he propose to incorporate information which comes to light in that census in the Island Plan?

Answer

The preparation of an Island Plan involves the development and adoption of a planning assumption which seeks to set out the anticipated change to the scale and nature of the island's population over the ten year plan period. The planning assumption is important because it informs the level and type of provision that the Island Plan seeks to make for different types of development, mostly significantly housing. The planning assumption used to inform the Island Plan is developed with assistance from Statistics Jersey using locally relevant data and modelling: this work is based on the last Census but is updated using other sources of local data derived annually since the Census was undertaken. Significantly, the planning assumption will be in line with the Government's policy objectives related to population and the management of immigration which is due to be debated before publication of the draft island plan.

It is not unusual for an Island Plan to be adopted soon after the undertaking or outcome of the Island Census, as has happened previously in 2002 and 2011. Whilst an Island Plan is a statutory ten year plan, the law makes provision for the Environment Minister to review on an interim basis, in whole or in part, to address any issues of specific need that may arise during the plan period; it is intended to amend the Planning Law to clarify this provision. In such circumstances, there is potential for a revision to the plan to be made within a ten year plan period, should the need arise, as a result of new information derived from the Census or any other material factor.