

Dear Senator Pallet,

Although I have no doubt my view will be in the minority, I think the proposed policy misses an opportunity to reduce the current 10 year time period to reduce permanent residential status to 8 years (as I believe was done in Guernsey).

Currently, individuals who have lived and worked in Jersey for more than five years but less than ten years (on a licensed basis), have an "entitlement to work" without a license, but if they do so only have the right to live in registered property, which is limited in quantity, reducing all the time, and often of poor quality.

Equally if they invest in Jersey property to create a family home they run the risk that if their job and license doesn't continue for whatever reason, they can no longer live in their own home, even where children are involved. This is a huge disincentive to putting down proper roots in the community because of the risk the house would have to be sold (to buy another house to live in, say back in the UK).

Clearly there should not be a free-for-all, but it would seem reasonable to reduce the 10 year period to 8 years. I have been told, but have not confirmed, that Guernsey made this reduction to comply with ECHR judgments on the right to family life.