

13/3 (4)



6th August 2007

Deputy Patrick D J Ryan
Chairman, Corporate Services GST Sub Panel
Scrutiny Office
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STATES GREFFE
REGISTERED
- 7 AUG 2007
Ack Utr sent 8/8/07

Dear Patrick,

Firstly please accept my apologies for the late response to your letter of 16th July 2007, this is mainly due to the Jersey Consumer Council having to rearrange its July meeting due to a clash with an extended States sitting.

Your letter and papers were circulated amongst the Members of the Jersey Consumer Council and, in general terms, the Council feel that the de minimis level on the importation of goods should be set as high as possible for a number of reasons;

1. To enable Jersey Consumers to make purchases at favourable prices on the internet which are free of UK Value Added Tax,
2. A high de minimis level could stimulate a competitive edge to locally obtainable prices,
3. To cut down on red tape and delivery problems as outlined in the letter to the Treasury Minister from the Air Express Operator's Group,
4. To minimise custom checks and declaration of personal baggage brought through the airport and ferry ports,
5. To keep to a minimum the number of staff required to "police" these regulations,
6. To keep under review the de minimis level and increase at least tri-annually.

The Jersey Consumer Council believes that a de minimis of no less than a £1,000 should be set and that the points above should be given some active consideration.

I hope this helps in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Alan Breckon
Chairman