

From: Harry McRandle [I
Sent: 06 February 2007 14:19
To: Scrutiny
Subject: Ref invitations to comment on Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel investigation into Experian report

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Dear Sirs,

I am making a submission as a private individual, although for the purposes of expediency, I am sending this from my work email account. Just to be clear my personal views in no way reflect those of Jersey Evening Post Ltd or any editorial view from the newspaper. Further I do not wish to appear personally before the panel. It is my view that Jersey badly needs new entrants into the retail marketplace that can help to reduce prices in stores. The panel asks in an advert that appears in the JEP on page 12 of the edition of Tuesday 6 February 2007 'Would You Like a New Supermarket in St Peter? My resounding answer is YES. It is my belief that prices have been too high and choice far too low over the years. In fact, I cannot remember the last time I bought clothing in Jersey. For some years, whenever I have left the Island to visit the UK, France or elsewhere, I have made the effort to purchase clothing, footwear, sports equipment and so on because the prices are lower and the quality high. At times I have also purchased foodstuffs with a long life as it was beneficial price wise to do so. In the advertisement mentioned above, the panel say the Economic Development Department is considering allowing a UK chain store to open a supermarket near the Airport. They mention Tesco, Asda and Sainsbury. I really hope that happens and one of these companies can at last bring proper competition to Jersey. No doubt, some local businesses will suffer as a result but only those who are unable to react to the more competitive environment. However, Islanders will enjoy lower prices generally as I believe that many existing stores, such as those run by the Co-Operative Society and CI Traders will react to a new entrant.

I believe the use of the phrase 'clone town' to be misleading in the advertisement. There are already many UK high street brands operating in the Island. Many have been here for years and have added value to the retail offering of King Street and Queen Street. I cannot understand why the prospect of a new out of town supermarket might lead to Jersey becoming a clone town should be raised. It also seems somewhat strange to suggest that the town centre could be destroyed by such an addition to the retail offering. The panel further asks that 'with the waterfront to be built, haven't we got enough retail space?'. This would also appear to be a somewhat unfair assertion to make, although it is rhetorical in nature. No one yet knows exactly what developments will be seen on the St Helier waterfront. Although I am told that certain elements within Economic Development possibly favour the construction of a new supermarket on the waterfront, that ambition may well be tempered by the location of a new supermarket elsewhere in the Island. Again it is my personal view that the St Helier waterfront is not the place for a huge supermarket, so I personally hope that one is not constructed there. It may well be that an impressive department store would be appropriate for such a prime site but not a primarily foodstore operation. I believe that Islanders have not benefitted from low prices primarily as a result of the fact that the number of suppliers in the island are limited. I am aware that operational costs are considerably higher than in the UK and continental Europe. However, I remain to be convinced that the disparity in pricing can easily be explained by those higher costs. I actually look forward to the results of the yet to be published JCRA investigation into shipping costs to see if perhaps that might contribute to the explanation. Should you wish to ask any questions, please reply to this email. Alternatively someone can call (office hours) or () at other times.

Kind regards Harry McRandle