

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER  
BY THE CONNÉTABLE OF ST. JOHN  
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 21st JANUARY 2014**

**Question**

Would the Chief Minister confirm that manpower returns must now only be completed in an electronic format and, if so, can members be told whether the Population Office consulted industry/employers and for how long a period before this decision was made? If no consultation took place will this now be addressed?

What, if any, alternative arrangements are available for companies or employers who do not use or have electronic systems?

Are companies still able to use hard copy in the interim and, if not, why not?

**Answer**

The manpower return process has moved online. However, the Population Office will help businesses without internet access to complete their returns.

There was no advance consultation on this change, as it was thought reasonable to move online so long as businesses without internet access were supported.

Moving to an online system will save businesses and government from having to re-input data every six months, as data from each return is maintained and only needs to be updated, where necessary, every six months.

The new process also improves our ability to identify non-compliance, as it requires details on every employee.

We will continue to improve the online process, while providing an alternative for those businesses that need it.