

SHOPS - SUNDAY TRADING (P.60/98): AMENDMENT

**Lodged au Greffe on 5th May 1998
by the Connétable of St. Clement**



STATES OF JERSEY

STATES GREFFE

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AMENDMENT OF SHOPS: SUNDAY TRADING
(P.60 of 1998)

For sub-paragraph (a) substitute the following paragraph -

- (a) to enable shops having a retail sales area of less than 200 square metres to open on a Sunday between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. in accordance with the terms of a trading permit issued by the Connétable of the parish concerned;

CONNÉTABLE OF ST. CLEMENT

Report

In the report accompanying his proposition Shops: Sunday trading (P.60/98), Deputy Breckon states that there has been general acceptance that the existing Law is outdated and difficult to police. The Jersey Consumer Council believes that what is being proposed by Deputy Breckon is a fair and workable compromise. The Connétables agree that changes are required to the existing Law but do not believe that a case has been made for the widespread opening on a Sunday which would be permitted if the proposition of Deputy Breckon is approved.

Under the present Law many types of shop are prevented from opening as they do not sell goods prescribed in the Law (see Deputy Breckon's report). The present Law also states that a Connétable may grant a permit. Historically it was only the small corner shops that opened on a Sunday but in recent years many have become part of supermarket chains and have continued to trade in an attempt to gain a larger share of the market. Applications for larger supermarkets to trade on a Sunday have generally been refused because of the special nature of Sunday and the disruption and inconvenience which might be caused to residents in the area by the supermarket opening. Experience with one large supermarket in Jersey, which traded for a trial period on a Sunday, showed the problems of disruption and inconvenience to residents and that permit was revoked.

Deputy Breckon proposes that all shops should be open (the length of opening to depend upon the size of the shop) in accordance with the terms of a trading permit issued by the Connétable of the parish concerned. The effect will be that Sunday will be no different from the rest of the week and, based on the experience of other countries, there will be widespread opening as traders dare not remain closed for fear of losing business.

The results of the Jersey Consumer Council survey on Sunday trading do not show overwhelming support for all shops to be open on a Sunday (only 40 per cent supported all shops being open but 60 per cent supported some or no shops being open). The Connétables are mindful of the needs of local people to buy essential items and therefore support small corner shops being allowed to trade. However a shop of 300 square metres cannot be regarded as a small corner shop

and it is proposed that the figure should be 200 square metres. It is also proposed that these shops should not be open for 24 hours but should be limited to trading between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. There is no justification to allow all shops to trade on a Sunday and the proposal would therefore restrict opening to only those shops with a retail sales area of less than 200 square metres.