



PMR/PCLeM/MAR/01.

02 July 2019

Deputy Jess Perchard
Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel
States Greffe
Morier House
St. Helier
JERSEY JE1 1DD

Dear Deputy Perchard

Re: Population & Migration Review

We are very pleased to have the opportunity of meeting with you on Friday, 05 July and we thank you for giving us the chance to put forward the concerns of the Agricultural & Horticultural Industry directly.

With regard to our submission we will try to answer the six specific points raised.

1. We agree with the Government's aim to reduce reliance on inward migration.

We feel the Government has failed significantly over the last ten years in this respect.

Between 2009 – 2014 net migration averaged just over 600 a year against a planning assumption of +325. In 2015, the new increase was 1,500 as the economy grew. Over the last three years, the level has been over 1,000; this level of migration is unsustainable.

2. We agree with the policies proposed by the previous Government to manage inward migration, which included :

- a) Prioritising employment licence requests from businesses which invest in skills and training and who deliver productivity or other community improvements.
- b) Short and medium term, time limited work permits
- c) Criminal records checks for new migrants.
- d) Photos on registration cards.

3. We understand the Migration Policy Development Board has identified the following issues that it will consider :

- a) Fiscal policy
- b) Ageing demographic
- c) Public service provision
- d) Planning
- e) Transport Policy
- f) Impact of migration housing affordability
- g) Immigration controls (including the impact of Brexit)
- h) Work and housing controls
- i) Access to services and housing for new migrants

We feel that all of these issues are equally important in their own way.

It would seem from the Migration Achieving the Right Balance Policy, (P.70/2018) it shows that in 2040, the number of older people will have significantly increased. The number of adults of working age will have reduced slightly by 6,000 and the number of children under 18 years of age is virtually the same as in 2010.

This surely suggests that :

- 1) The pension age should be raised earlier
- 2) If people are to be permitted to come and work in the Island, perhaps we need to ensure they are younger people with children otherwise we are exacerbating the situation which will not solve the problem.

4. Are there any other issues that the Board should consider ?

We feel that the Panel should consider whether the ten year residency period qualification is still appropriate in view of all the other constraints the Island is facing.

5. What are your key concerns/priorities in relation to population and

migration control ?

Undoubtedly, our key concerns as an Industry are the loss of agricultural land for more housing and the lack of suitable staff to service the Industry.

6. What are the biggest challenges that you are facing as a result of current migration levels and existing migration controls ?

A very real concern for the Industry is that our staff are being taken by other Industries who can afford higher wages.

We look forward to meeting with the Panel on Friday for further discussion in this respect.

Yours sincerely



PETER C. LE MAISTRE
PRESIDENT