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**From:** Michael Rogers  
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**To:** Scrutiny  
**Subject:** Retail Supermarkets In jersey

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Dear Panel Members.

I am emailing yourselves in response to the offer to contact the Scrutiny Panel as placed in the JEP on February 5th. I have only responded today as I was out of the island until recently.

I am most concerned that the Economic Development committee are still pursuing a policy of actively encouraging the increase of Food Retail space & the No of Food Supermarket Companies represented in the island. The fact is that there are no monopolies in the Food Retail sector unlike other areas of Jersey Life, particularly those administered by the States. This strategy is continuing despite meetings held by Dougie Peedle, Mike King & Senator Ozouf with various members of the retail trade. The committee members & in particular Senator Ozouf don't seem to listen to the local trade and continue to follow their own agenda based on inaccurate information as supplied by the Experian report. This report has been twice rubbished by Prof. Sparks in his reports commissioned by the Chamber of Commerce.

Please find below our response to your questions

Will this destroy local business? -  
 Yes without a doubt particularly if it is a big chain like Tesco. Not only the food retailers will be knocked sideways, but also whitegoods, clothes, financial companies etc etc

Will this increase customer choice or make Jersey another UK a "clone town"? No it will not increase choice significantly as 99.9% of the Food Categories are already available locally. Farm Shops would be decimated who are one of the sources currently providing niche market choices. Yes we would become even more of a clone UK town than we are now, Surely what makes Jersey "JERSEY" is being different/unique.

Will this create new jobs or force local business to cut staff?  
 Definitely no new jobs for locals!! They will just migrate in an inflationary pattern to the new employers who will import new top management. When Safeway came to the islands in 1990's as a local employer employing only 6 members of staff we had to immediately make one of our staff redundant due to losing 20% overnight of our market place. To add insult to injury their pricing structure become/was dearer on like for like articles than either the CI Coop or Le Riche Stores.

Will this help local business or destroy the town centre?  
 This is a no brainer How in heavens name can anyone think it will help us locals and improve the town centre. One only has to read the national press occasionally to pick up that all the villages and towns in the UK are being destroyed by the large retailers!

With the waterfront to be built, haven't we got enough retail space?  
 I should say more than enough!! We are only the size of a UK small market town with no opportunity to attract additional consumers as we are an island community in the lea of the Cherbourg peninsular. No consumer will come to Jersey to do their weekly shop!

Please be reminded that price is not the Holy Grail, in fact cheap prices in the long run only serve to cheapen the environment we live in, value for money is a much better way forward. Jersey already has plenty of retailers offering great value for money considering we are a small island community and not some enormous city conglomerate!

Finally I would be happy to meet with any of the Panel members at their convenience to discuss any issue in more depth.

Yours Faithfully

Michael Rogers

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