

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

COMMITTEE *for* HOME AFFAIRS

POPULATION MANAGEMENT REGIME –
MEMBERSHIP OF THE POPULATION ADVISORY PANEL

Letter of Comment from the Policy & Resources Committee on the item lodged by the Committee *for* Home Affairs entitled “Population Management Regime – Membership of the Population Advisory Panel” (attached)



HM Greffier
Royal Court House
St Peter Port

Sir Charles Frossard House
La Charroterie
St Peter Port
Guernsey
GY1 1FH
+44 (0) 1481 717000
www.gov.gg

6 September 2016

Dear Sir

Population Management Regime – Membership of the Population Advisory Panel

The Policy & Resources Committee has considered the Propositions (P.2016/28) submitted by the Committee *for* Home Affairs in respect of the above, and is keen to support them.

From April next year, the new population management regime will take effect, replacing the Housing Control Law, which has been in existence in various guises since 1948 and no longer meets all the requirements of a modern population management system. Indeed, it was never designed as such and its replacement is welcomed.

In December 2015 (Billet XXIV) the States agreed that States' policies should be focused on ensuring that the Island's working population is of a size and make-up consistent with achieving the States' strategic, economic, social and environmental objectives. They also agreed a new Population Objective, which was that, as far as practicable, Guernsey's population should, in the long-term, be kept to the lowest level possible to achieve "The Statement of Aims" in the States Strategic Plan. The new regime will support this Objective in the short term but is also sufficiently flexible to support whatever strategic objectives are agreed by the States in the longer term, which is essential if the new law is to work well in practice. The introduction of a new regime provides an excellent opportunity to demonstrate that Guernsey is very much "open for business" and the appointment of the panel will reinforce this important message.

Members are very pleased that the Committee *for* Home Affairs intends to take advice from representatives of a cross-section of the business community in determining the policies that should apply in respect of employment-related permits. In the Committee's opinion, this can only serve to improve the administration of the regime, as well as demonstrating that government is willing to listen to those in the community with relevant experience and knowledge. Of course, it will remain the Committee's responsibility to weigh the advice received against those broader strategic issues referenced above, and which will be articulated through the Policy & Resource Plan in due course.

The Committee agrees with the Committee *for* Home Affairs that the panel has the right background and experience to discharge the roles required and, as such, recommends the Propositions to the States.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G St Pier', with a stylized, cursive script.

G St Pier
President

Cc: President, Committee *for* Home Affairs