

Guernsey Quarterly Inflation Bulletin

Quarter 4 2018

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The Guernsey Inflation Bulletin presents the Guernsey RPI and RPIX measures of inflation, based on price changes of items within a “shopping basket” of goods.



States of Guernsey
Data and Analysis

1.1 Introduction

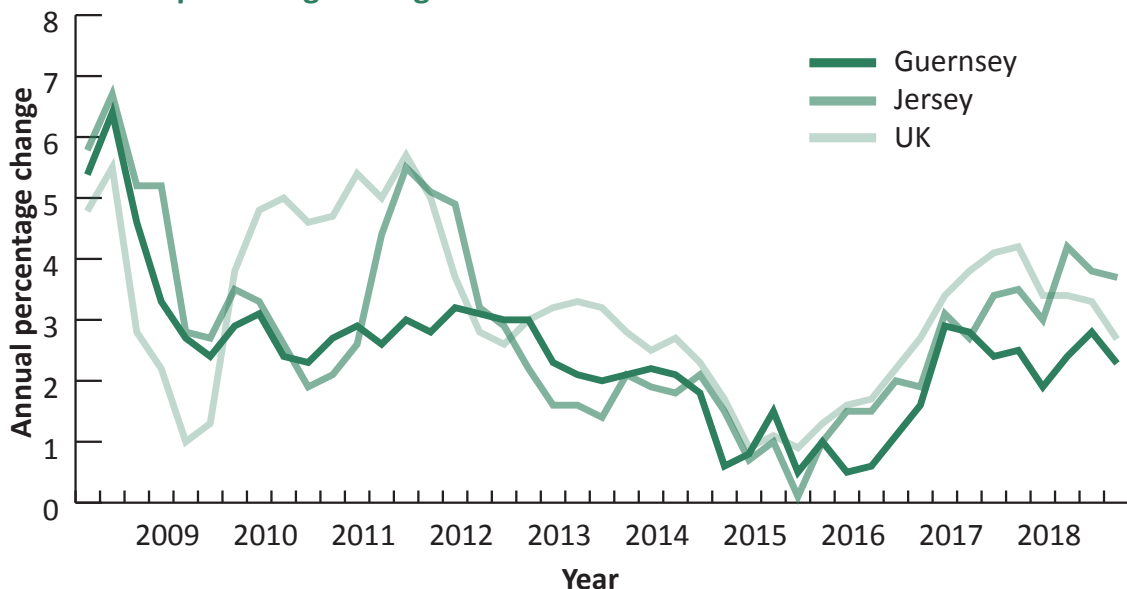
The Guernsey RPIX and RPI are measures of inflation. They measure the change in the prices of goods and services bought for the purpose of consumption or use by households in Guernsey. The indices are published quarterly by Data and Analysis. The calculations of the RPIX and RPI are based on the price change of items within a 'shopping basket'. Whilst some prices rise over time, others will fall or fluctuate and the indices represent the average change in these prices.

This is the sixteenth Bulletin to present Guernsey inflation figures calculated using the updated shopping basket and weights, which resulted from the 2012-13 Household Expenditure Survey. The survey is being repeated this year. To find out more about the survey or volunteer to take part, go to www.gov.gg/hes.

1.2 Headlines

- Guernsey's annual inflation as measured by the RPIX ('core' inflation excluding mortgage interest payments) was 2.3% in December 2018. This is 0.5 percentage points lower than in the previous quarter and 0.2 points lower than in December 2017.
- The equivalent RPIX figure for December 2018 for the UK was 2.7% and for Jersey, 3.7%.
- The Leisure services group contributed 0.6 percentage points and the Fuel and light and Personal goods and services groups each contributed 0.3 points to the annual change in the RPIX for the year ending in December 2018.
- The 'all items' RPI annual inflation was 2.4% in December 2018, 0.5 percentage points lower than the previous quarter and the same as in December 2017.
- The equivalent RPI figure for December 2018 for the UK was 2.7% and for Jersey, 3.9%.

Figure 1.2.1 Annual percentage change in RPIX



2.1 RPIX and RPI overview

Table 2.1.1 RPIX overview

		Annual % change	Quarterly % change	Index (2008 base)
2015	Dec	1.0	-0.3	116.4
2016	Mar	0.5	0.8	117.3
	Jun	0.6	0.8	118.3
	Sep	1.1	-0.1	118.1
	Dec	1.6	0.1	118.2
2017	Mar	2.9	2.1	120.7
	Jun	2.8	0.7	121.6
	Sep	2.4	-0.5	121.0
	Dec	2.5	0.1	121.2
2018	Mar	1.9	1.5	122.9
	Jun	2.4	1.3	124.5
	Sep	2.8	-0.2	124.3
	Dec	2.3	-0.3	123.9

Figure 2.1.1 RPI overview

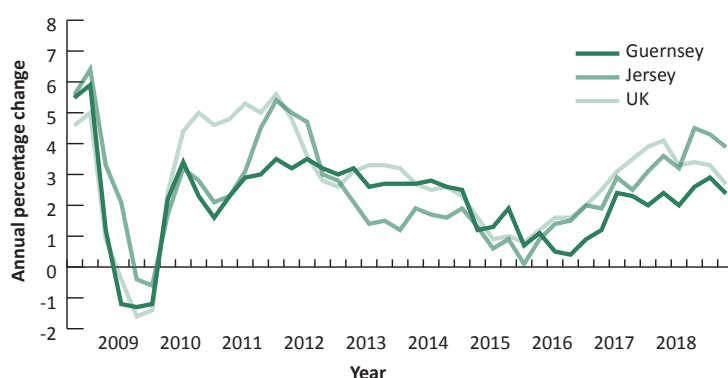


Table 2.1.2 RPI overview

		Annual % change	Quarterly % change	Index (2008 base)
2015	Dec	1.1	-0.4	114.0
2016	Mar	0.5	0.7	114.8
	Jun	0.4	0.8	115.7
	Sep	0.9	-0.2	115.5
	Dec	1.2	-0.1	115.4
2017	Mar	2.4	1.9	117.6
	Jun	2.3	0.7	118.4
	Sep	2.0	-0.5	117.8
	Dec	2.4	0.2	118.1
2018	Mar	2.0	1.6	119.9
	Jun	2.6	1.2	121.4
	Sep	2.9	-0.1	121.3
	Dec	2.4	-0.3	121.0

The annual change in the RPIX was 2.3% at the end of December 2018, 0.5 percentage points lower than in the previous quarter and 0.2 points lower than in December 2017 (see [Table 2.1.1](#) and [Figure 1.2.1](#)).

The quarterly change in the RPIX was -0.3% during the three month period ending December 2018, 0.1 percentage points less than the previous quarter and 0.4 percentage points lower than in December 2017. Quarterly changes in the RPIX are subject to seasonal variations in price levels.

The annual change in the UK RPIX was 2.7% at the end of December 2018 and in Jersey's, 3.7%.

The annual change in the RPI was 2.4% in December 2018, which was 0.5 percentage points lower than the previous quarter and the same as in December 2017 (see [Figure 2.1.1](#) and [Table 2.1.2](#)).

The annual change in the UK RPI was 2.7% at the end of December 2018 and in Jersey's, 3.9%.

The quarterly change in the RPI for the quarter ending in December 2018 was -0.3%, which is 0.2 percentage points lower than during the previous quarter and 0.5 percentage points lower than the quarter ending December 2017. Similar to the RPIX, quarterly changes in the RPI are subject to seasonal variation. However, the RPI can be dominated by trends in mortgage interest payments.

3.1 Group analysis - annual

Figure 3.1.1 shows the annual percentage change in each of the fourteen RPI and RPIX groups. **Figure 3.1.2** shows the number of percentage points contributed to the annual change in the indices by each group. Only the Housing group shows a different percentage change between the RPIX and RPI, as a result of the exclusion of the mortgage interest item in the calculation of the RPIX. However, due to differences in the weightings the contribution made by each group to the RPI and RPIX can differ.

In the year ending December 2018, thirteen of the groups increased and one decreased. The Fuel & light group saw the largest annual increase at 6.8%, contributing 0.3% to the overall RPIX change. The Food group showed the only decrease at -0.5%, contributing -0.1 percentage points to the overall RPIX change.

Figure 3.1.1 Annual percentage change

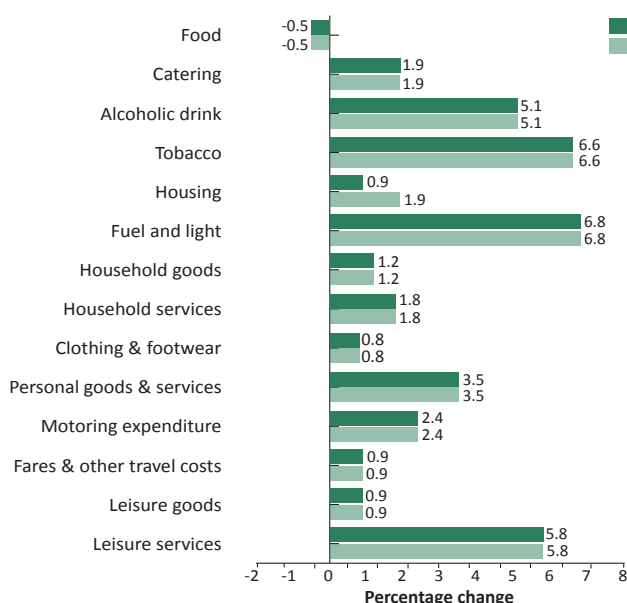
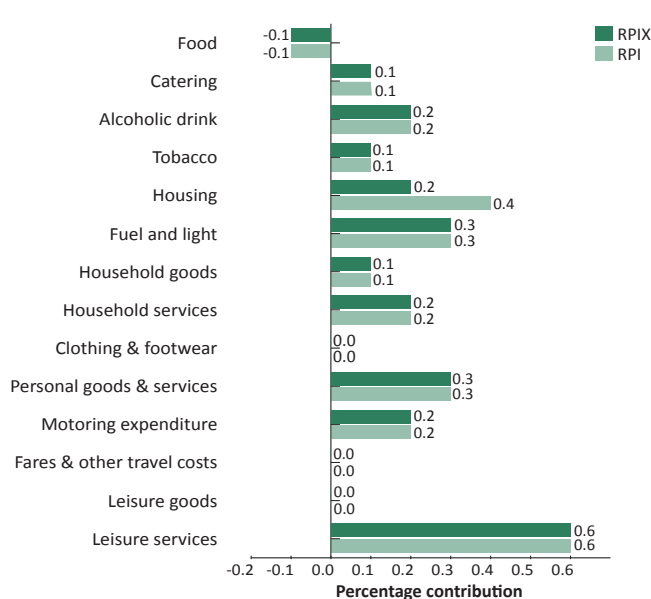


Figure 3.1.2 Annual contribution



NB: Due to the effects of rounding, any values of less than 0.05 will appear as 0.0

Table 3.1.1 Group weighting

	Items included	RPIX	RPI
Food	Food and non-alcoholic drink bought for home consumption.	12%	11%
Catering	Food purchased in restaurants, at work, from takeaways, etc.	4%	4%
Alcoholic drink	Wine, beer, spirits and other alcoholic drinks.	4%	4%
Tobacco	Cigarettes, cigars and other tobacco products.	1%	1%
Housing	Interest paid on mortgages (for RPI only), rents, parish rates and routine household maintenance and servicing costs.	18%	22%
Fuel & light	Goods and services for the provision of light, heat and power in the home e.g. gas, oil and electricity.	5%	5%
Household goods	Non-food items for the household including house and garden furniture, carpets, curtains and bedding.	7%	6%
Household services	Services enlisted for the household such as contents insurance, domestic appliances, postal and telecoms.	11%	10%
Clothing & footwear	Adults' and children's clothing and footwear.	3%	3%
Personal goods & services	Goods and services for personal use such as jewellery, cosmetics and toiletries plus medical expenses.	8%	7%
Motoring expenditure	Vehicle purchase, running and maintenance costs, including motor fuel.	8%	8%
Fares & other travel costs	Air and sea passenger fares and other travel related costs.	5%	5%
Leisure goods	Goods for sports, hobbies and entertainment including electronic goods, sporting and gardening equipment.	4%	4%
Leisure services	Services purchased for leisure activities including foreign holidays, cinema tickets and sporting activities.	11%	10%

3.2 Group analysis - quarterly

Figure 3.2.1 Quarterly percentage change

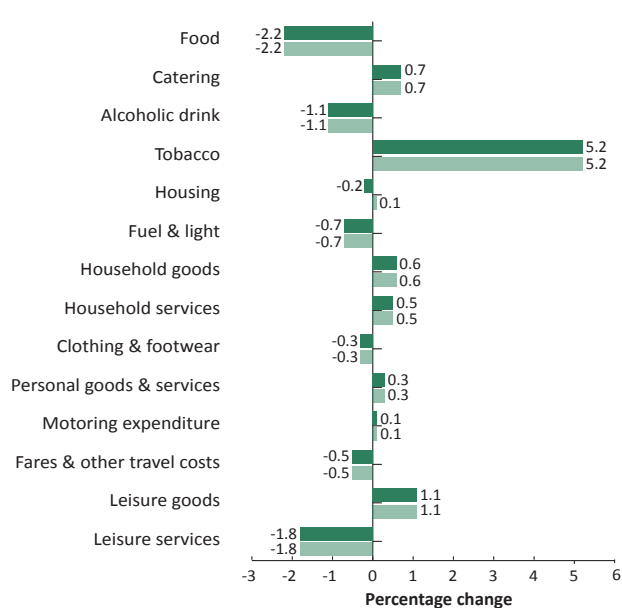
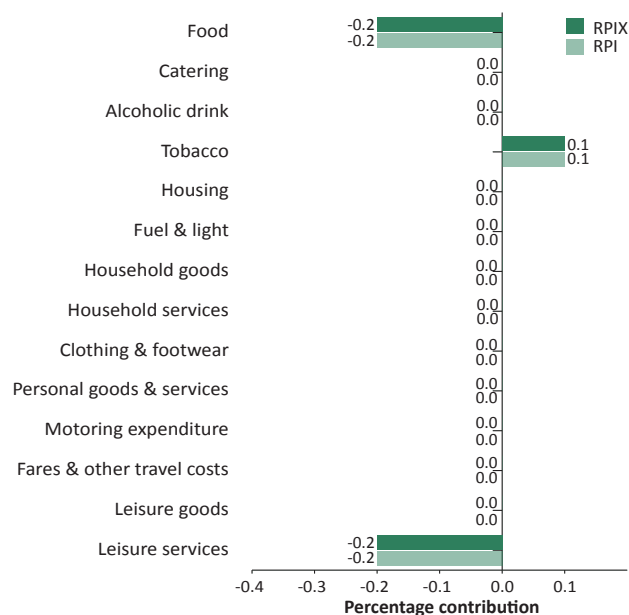


Figure 3.2.2 Quarterly contribution



NB: Due to the effects of rounding, any values of less than 0.05 will appear as 0.0

Seven of the fourteen RPIX and RPI groups saw an average price increase in the three months ending in December 2018 (**Figure 3.2.1**).

The largest percentage increase (5.2%) came from the Tobacco group, making a contribution of 0.1 percentage points to the quarterly changes in both the RPIX and the RPI. (**Figure 3.2.2**).

The largest quarterly decrease was in the Food group (-2.2%), contributing -0.2 percentage points to the overall quarterly changes.

Further details of the changes by group over the quarter can be found on [page 6](#).

3.2 Group analysis - quarterly

Within each group, specific items can be identified as having an upward or downward effect on the Index. Details are given below. The figures in brackets are the quarterly changes for each group.

Food (-2.2%)

Several products showed seasonal price reductions, including chocolate, meats, vegetables, soft drinks, crisps and salmon.

Catering (0.7%)

The small increase is mainly attributable to slightly higher prices for pub hot and cold snacks.

Alcoholic drink (-1.1%)

There were several seasonal offers in sparkling wine, red wine, champagne and whisky.

Tobacco (5.2%)

Duty increases came into effect this quarter.

Housing (-0.2% RPIX, 0.1% RPI)

Lower dwelling insurance premiums were the main reason for this decrease, as well as some price reductions in DIY items. For the change in RPI, mortgage interest payment increases was the primary contributor.

Fuel and light (-0.7%)

The price of kerosene decreased this quarter.

Household goods (0.6%)

The price of small household appliances decreased slightly, and there were increases in the cost of bedroom furniture, cookers and kitchen units.

Household services (0.5%)

This change has been influenced by small increases in mobile phone charges and surveyors fees.

Clothing and footwear (-0.3%)

There were price increases in dresses and ties and price reductions in blouses, jackets and t-shirts.

Personal goods and services (0.3%)

Increases in the cost of jewellery, some toiletries and manicures were partly offset by reductions in the cost of cosmetics and baby wipes.

Motoring expenditure (0.1%)

Higher prices of motorcycles and spare parts were partly offset by lower petrol prices and second hand car costs.

Fares and other travel goods (-0.5%)

Whilst there were small increases in air fares, there were larger reductions in sea fares.

Leisure goods (1.1%)

The prices of PCs and computer games rose during the quarter, but digital radios, some TVs and some computer game consoles reduced in price.

Leisure services (-1.8%)

The cost of package holidays abroad increased slightly but was offset by the reduction in hotel and other accommodation prices in the UK and Channel Islands.

4.1 Cumulative changes, reflation factors and indices

Table 4.1.1 RPIX cumulative changes and reflation factors to 31st December 2018

	Cumulative % change	Reflation factor
3 months	-0.3	1.00
6 months	-0.5	0.99
9 months	0.8	1.01
12 months	2.3	1.02
15 months	2.4	1.02
18 months	1.9	1.02
2 years	4.8	1.05
3 years	6.4	1.06
4 years	7.5	1.08
5 years	8.2	1.08
10 years	23.7	1.24

Table 4.1.2 RPI cumulative changes and reflation factors to 31st December 2018

	Cumulative % change	Reflation factor
3 months	-0.3	1.00
6 months	-0.4	1.00
9 months	0.8	1.01
12 months	2.4	1.02
15 months	2.7	1.03
18 months	2.2	1.02
2 years	4.8	1.05
3 years	6.1	1.06
4 years	7.2	1.07
5 years	8.5	1.08
10 years	24.1	1.24

Table 4.1.3 RPIX and RPI index figures at 31st December 2018

Year of base	RPIX index	RPI index
1949	-	3736.4
1965	-	2182.4
1974	-	1203.7
1978	-	582.6
1983	-	366.9
1988	-	274.6
1994	-	203.2
1998	172.7	175.5
2008	123.9	121.0
2014	106.5	106.4

Indices are used to calculate the change in prices over time. The headline annual inflation in RPIX or RPI is the percentage change in the index over a year. However, it is possible to calculate percentage changes over longer periods of time.

There is an **[inflation calculator](http://www.gov.gg/rpi)** on our website (www.gov.gg/rpi) which you can use to calculate the percentage change in the RPI between any two quarters from 1949 onwards. The inflation calculator can also calculate the reflation value of a monetary sum (e.g. a rental payment) over the specified period.

The effect of inflation is to erode the purchasing power of currency. The reflation factors in **Tables 4.1.1** and **4.1.2** can be used to inflate old values to approximate current prices.

To convert a price, multiply it by the appropriate reflation factor. For example, using RPIX reflation factors, £100 in December 2008 is equivalent to £100 x 1.24 = £124 in December 2018.

Reflation factors can also be used in the opposite way. To calculate what £100 in 2018 would have been worth in 2008 divide by the relevant reflation factor.

When making long-term comparisons, it should be taken into account that the 'shopping basket' may have changed over time, since households may not be spending money on the same products as they did in the past.

Following each Household Expenditure Survey the index is rebased (i.e. set to 100). **Table 4.1.3** shows the index value for the current quarter for each year of base, including the new index, revised to 100 in March 2014. Full time series of index figures for each base are available on our website (www.gov.gg/rpi).

5.12 UK and Jersey inflation rates

Table 5.1.1 Annual change in RPIX in Guernsey, the UK and Jersey

		Guernsey	UK	Jersey
2013	Dec	2.1	2.8	2.1
2014	Mar	2.2	2.5	1.9
	Jun	2.1	2.7	1.8
	Sep	1.8	2.3	2.1
	Dec	0.6	1.7	1.5
2015	Mar	0.8	0.9	0.7
	Jun	1.5	1.1	1.0
	Sep	0.5	0.9	0.1
	Dec	1.0	1.3	1.0
2016	Mar	0.5	1.6	1.5
	Jun	0.6	1.7	1.5
	Sep	1.1	2.2	2.0
	Dec	1.6	2.7	1.9
2017	Mar	2.9	3.4	3.1
	Jun	2.8	3.8	2.7
	Sep	2.4	4.1	3.4
	Dec	2.5	4.2	3.5
2018	Mar	1.9	3.4	3.0
	Jun	2.4	3.4	4.2
	Sep	2.8	3.3	3.8
	Dec	2.3	2.7	3.7

[†] Jersey inflation figures were not available at the time of publication.

Table 5.1.2 Annual change in RPI in Guernsey, the UK and Jersey

		Guernsey	UK	Jersey
2013	Dec	2.7	2.7	1.9
2014	Mar	2.8	2.5	1.7
	Jun	2.6	2.6	1.6
	Sep	2.5	2.3	1.9
	Dec	1.2	1.6	1.3
2015	Mar	1.3	0.9	0.6
	Jun	1.9	1.0	0.9
	Sep	0.7	0.8	0.1
	Dec	1.1	1.2	0.9
2016	Mar	0.5	1.6	1.4
	Jun	0.4	1.6	1.5
	Sep	0.9	2.0	2.0
	Dec	1.2	2.5	1.9
2017	Mar	2.4	3.1	2.9
	Jun	2.3	3.5	2.5
	Sep	2.0	3.9	3.1
	Dec	2.4	4.1	3.6
2018	Mar	2.0	3.3	3.2
	Jun	2.6	3.4	4.5
	Sep	2.9	3.3	4.3
	Dec	2.4	2.7	3.9

Table 5.1.1 and **Table 5.1.2** show the comparable RPIX and RPI inflation rates reported by the UK Office of National Statistics¹ and the States of Jersey Statistics Unit². There may be differences in the methodology used to calculate inflation and care should be taken when comparing figures from different jurisdictions.

Typically inflation in the three jurisdictions follows broadly the same trends. However, it should be noted that changes in taxation and other circumstances specific to a particular jurisdiction may have a significant impact on inflation. For example, the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax in Jersey in 2008 exerted an upwards pressure on both RPIX and RPI which was not experienced in either Guernsey or the UK. Similarly the temporary reduction of the UK VAT rate to 15% in 2009, its return to 17.5% in 2010, and the subsequent increase to 20% in 2011, will have influenced inflation in the UK but had little impact in Guernsey and Jersey.

The higher cost of housing experienced in Guernsey and Jersey compared with the UK, and the resultant higher weighting of housing in the inflation rates of the islands, means that changes in the cost of housing typically exert more inflationary pressure in Guernsey and Jersey than in the UK. Differences in spending patterns in other areas, such as travel and motoring, will also affect the relative effect of price changes on the indices.

¹ www.statistics.gov.uk ² www.gov.je/statistics

6.1 Methodology

The calculations of the RPIX and RPI are based on the price change of items within a 'shopping basket'. Whilst a single household's shopping basket may contain anywhere in the region of one to several hundred items, the 'basket' of goods and services used in the calculation contains over 1,700 items. This list of goods and services remains consistent every quarter in order to measure price changes over time.

Every household in the island spends its income in different ways so it is impractical to monitor changes in the price of every single item on sale. Therefore, the Indices contain a representation of what 'typical' consumers in a Guernsey household spend their money on. They should not be confused with a 'cost of living' index, which will vary according to individual expenditure.

The methodology is continuously monitored and is periodically audited and updated to ensure it remains accurate and representative. The results of the latest review were first incorporated in the March 2014 inflation results. The Guide to the Guernsey Inflation Indices, which is available online at www.gov.gg/rpi, provides more detail on the recent changes along with information regarding the methodology, calculation and uses of the inflation indices.

The main source of information for the periodic review is the Household Expenditure Survey. The results of the 2012-13 Survey are now available from www.gov.gg/household. The next Survey commenced in May 2018 and will be continuing until April 2019. More information on getting involved can be found at www.gov.gg/hes.

6.2 Contact details

For more information on how the RPIX and RPI are calculated please see the Guide to the Guernsey Retail Prices Index, which, along with the Inflation Calculator, is available via www.gov.gg/rpi.

The next inflation bulletin (for March 2019) will be published at 9:30am on Wednesday 24th April 2019.

You may also be interested in other publications from States of Guernsey Data and Analysis Services, which are all available online at www.gov.gg/data. Please contact us for further information.

E-mail: dataandanalysis@gov.gg

Telephone: (01481) 717292

Write / visit: Data and Analysis
Sir Charles Frossard House
La Charroterie
St Peter Port
Guernsey
GY1 1FH



For more information
go to gov.gg/data