

**REPLY BY THE MINISTER OF
THE COMMERCE AND EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT
TO A QUESTION ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY M FALLAIZE**

***Question 1** – Will the Department be submitting the proposed strategy for debate (and Resolution) by the States; and, if so, when?*

Answer

The Commerce and Employment Department does not intend to submit the proposed Retail Strategy for debate by the States as the Retail Strategy has been prepared and produced as an influencing document to obtain a point of reference about retail matters to help inform policy considerations.

***Question 2** – Does the Department accept that unless and until the strategy is submitted for debate (and Resolution) by the States, no committee of the States is obliged to pursue any of the proposals contained therein and, therefore, any potentially positive impact of the proposed strategy is necessarily limited and constrained?*

Answer

Deputy Fallaize is correct in indicating that States Departments are obliged to pursue proposals when they have received approval from the States. However, as has been the case since the very earliest of its drafts, the Retail Strategy document has been prepared as a document to provide a Retail point of view which will be helpful for States Departments as they consider matters within their own mandates which may have a retail-facing component.

The document contains a number of Strategy Proposals, which as the name suggests, are just that: proposals. They cannot, do not, and have never been intended to bind Departments to particular policies, merely to provide a retail perspective that stakeholder Departments should take account of when addressing matters which may touch the world of retail. This is made clear on page four of the Retail Strategy in paragraph five of the introduction.

We do not believe that the strategy is limited or constrained by taking this influencing approach. The document and what it contains has largely been positively received and has been the source of further debate, engagement and awareness from which it is hoped further proactive actions and various workstreams will feed from.

Date of Receipt of the Question: 8th January 2014

Date of Reply: 21st January 2014