



Deputy Montfort Tadier
Chair
Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel
Scrutiny Office
States Greffe
St Helier
Jersey

BY EMAIL

9 March 2026

Dear Deputy Tadier,

Re: Draft Shops (Regulation of Opening and Deliveries) (Jersey) Repeal Law 202-

Thank you for inviting the Jersey Consumer Council to provide comments on the proposed repeal of the Shops (Regulation of Opening and Deliveries) (Jersey) Law. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the Panel's review and have set out our response to each of the areas you highlighted.

1. Overall view on the proposal to repeal the current law regulating shop opening and deliveries

In general, the Council considers the repeal to be a positive step, provided that the appropriate checks and balances are in place – particularly regarding worker rights, fair pay, holiday entitlement, and protection against being compelled to work additional hours without proper compensation.

We recognise that the current legislation is no longer fit for purpose within today's trading environment. Many businesses already operate in ways that work around the existing law, indicating that reform is overdue. Sunday opening is now widely adopted – for example, Waitrose branches operate almost entirely through a younger workforce aged 16–19, which appears to be working effectively for both employer and employees.

We therefore support updating the legal framework to reflect modern retail practices and consumer expectations.

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2. Expected impact on consumers

Consumers would benefit from increased choice and convenience. Sunday opening has proved popular during Christmas and August trading periods and could provide a welcome boost for St Helier, particularly during the summer when visitor numbers are higher.

Wider opening hours may also support the hospitality sector by increasing footfall to cafés and restaurants.

However, we recognise that uptake may initially be slow as islanders adjust, and some locally owned retailers may choose not to open.

3. Possible effects on pricing

In principle, there should be no direct price increases linked to extended opening hours alone.

However, we note that some retailers may face higher staffing costs, especially where overtime or enhanced Sunday pay is necessary. There is a possibility that such costs could be passed on to consumers. Some outlets may increase prices as a matter of course, though this would be a commercial decision rather than a consequence of the repeal itself.

4. Impact on competition and consumer choice

The Council considers that the market is likely to balance itself. Larger UK-based retailers may adopt Sunday opening immediately, as it aligns with their UK operating models. Smaller retailers may choose to open only if the additional trading hours are commercially viable.

We do not currently foresee a meaningful reduction in competition. Retailers that can generate sufficient business to cover operating costs will open; those that cannot, may choose to remain closed. Over time, Sunday trading may come to seem entirely normal – much like the now well-established Christmas Sunday trading period.

5. Delivery timings and community impact

This is an area of concern for the Council. For many residents living close to supermarkets or town-centre retailers, heavy vehicle deliveries already cause significant noise disturbance.

Some retailers currently adopt good practice – for example, Waitrose St Saviour already prohibits Sunday deliveries out of respect for neighbouring homes. We would strongly encourage maintaining or formalising this type of restriction, particularly for large goods vehicles.

We believe that while shops may choose to open on Sundays, heavy-duty deliveries should be restricted or minimised to reduce community disruption.

6. Consumer rights considerations

If the law is repealed, the following areas should be clearly defined to protect consumer rights:

- Clear communication of opening hours across all retailers.
- Reasonable expectations around product availability and delivery cycles.

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- Assurance that employees are protected from being pressured into working undesirable hours without appropriate remuneration.
- Recognition that while many consumers welcome the convenience of Sunday shopping, others value rest, family time, and quiet in their neighbourhoods.

General observations

Overall, the Council sees the potential benefits of increased convenience and economic activity. However, employee wellbeing, fair compensation, and residential noise concerns must be carefully managed. If free parking was introduced in town at weekends it may also help stimulate footfall in St Helier.

With proper safeguards, the repeal could modernise the island's retail framework while preserving community balance.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely,



Carl Walker,

Chairman

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