



April 24 2017

GOOD QUARTER FOR JERSEY AS DEBTS LAG ENGLAND AND WALES

The number of debt judgments in Jersey fell slightly during the first quarter of 2017, according to figures released today by Registry Trust.

Registry Trust is the non-profit organisation which collects judgment information from jurisdictions across the British Isles and Ireland. In Jersey it collects, verifies and makes available judgment records from the petty debts and royal court. A judgment is incontrovertible proof of unmanaged debt.

In Q1 2017, 480 judgments were registered in Jersey, five percent fewer than the same period last year and the fourth year in a row the total for the quarter has fallen.

Debt judgments against consumers, which make up the bulk of the figures, fell three percent to 424. The number of judgments against businesses decreased by 40 percent to 56.

There were 4.13 debt judgments for every 1,000 people in Jersey during Q1 2017, compared with 5.16 per 1,000 in England and Wales.

The total value of all judgments in Jersey fell 42 percent to £1.6m during the first quarter of 2017. The average value of a judgment decreased by 39 percent to £3,341.

The average consumer judgment was £3,186; the average judgment against a business was £4,517.

"The first quarter has been good for Jersey," said Registry Trust chairman Malcolm Hurlston CBE. "The number of debt judgments is down and it is relatively better than in England and Wales."

In Q1 2017 Registry Trust received 7,973 requests to search the register for Jersey online at www.trustonline.org.uk. TrustOnline allows anyone to search for judgments and similar information registered against businesses and consumers in any jurisdiction across the British Isles and Ireland. "It is a unique benefit for people in Jersey to be able to check the debt record of any person or business with which they may be transacting wherever they are in the British Isles," said Mr Hurlston. "Negative information would certainly make me think twice."

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Statistics

- All judgments Q1 2017 (compared with Q1 2016)
 - Total: 480 (down five percent)
 - Value: £1.6m (down 42 percent)
 - Average: £3,341 (down 39 percent)
- Consumer judgments Q1 2017
 - Total: 424 (down three percent)
 - Value: £1.4m (up 183 percent)
 - Average: £3,186 (up 174 percent)
- Business judgments Q1 2017
 - Total: 56 (down 40 percent)
 - Value: £252,960 (down 89 percent)
 - Average: £4,517 (down 82 percent)

Notes for editors

Registry Trust is a non-profit company established in 1985. It maintains public records of judgment and decree information for most jurisdictions in the British Isles and Ireland. These records are an important factor in avoiding debt and in supporting responsible lending decisions, which in turn underpin a modern and stable economy.

Registry Trust holds a public register of Jersey judgments. It collects judgments from the petty debts and royal court in agreement with the Jersey Courts.

Judgments can be removed from the register if paid in full within one calendar month of the issue date and Registry Trust is informed, but will otherwise remain registered for six years. If fully paid outside the one calendar month, the defendant can apply to have the judgment marked as 'satisfied' and that should have a favourable impact on the credit score. Failure to pay within one month is proof of unmanaged debt.

Anyone may search for entries against a named person or business at a stated address or a corporate body in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland by visiting Registry Trust's website www.trustonline.org.uk or by writing to Registry Trust, 153–157 Cleveland Street, London W1T 6QW.

To view the full set of annual statistics, please visit www.trustonline.org.uk/press.

For more information about Registry Trust's aims, structure and accountability as well as information about its range of products beyond the register of judgments please visit www.registry-trust.org.uk.

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