STATES OF JERSEY

INTERIM COVID-19 FOLLOW UP (P.A.C.2/2026): EXECUTIVE RESPONSE

Presented to the States on 16th November 2026
by the Public Accounts Committee

STATES GREFFE

FOREWORD

In accordance with paragraphs 69-71 of the Code of Practice for engagement between 'Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee' and 'the Executive', the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) presents the Executive Response to its Report: Interim COVID-19 Follow up (P.A.C.2/2026), presented to the States Assembly on 16th April 2026.

Deputy K. Wilson
Chair, Public Accounts Committee

COMMENTS

Recommendation One

> ***R1****: The Chief Executive Officer should consider conducting a review of COVID-19 recommendations by the end of 2026 to see if any have been closed prematurely and to take the appropriate action.*

The Committee notes that this recommendation has not been accepted, and considers that the Government's response does not provide sufficient assurance that the intention of the recommendation has been addressed. While acknowledging the resource and proportionality considerations raised, the Committee considers that these should not preclude an appropriate review from being undertaken and encourages the Government to reconsider this position.

Recommendations Two and Three

> ***R2****: The Jersey Resilience Forum should consider participating in additional emergency exercises across a range of scenarios to further test and strengthen Jersey emergency resilience.*
>
> ***R3****: The Chief Executive Officer and Treasurer of the States should consider reviewing the appropriate level of financial reserves required to respond to emergency scenarios, particularly in the event of a significant shock to the financial services sector by the end of 2026.*

The Committee notes the Government's responses and acknowledges the progress reported against these recommendations. The Committee will continue to take an interest in these areas and will consider whether any further follow-up is required as part of its future work.

Chief Executive to Public Accounts Committee Report: Interim-COVID-19 - Executive Response

Summary of response:

The Chief Executive and Treasurer of the States welcome the Public Accounts Committee report Interim-COVID-19 Follow up, particularly the Committee's observation that most COVID-19 recommendations have been implemented and that there have been improvements in wider resilience structures such as an updated Crisis Resilience Improvement Plan. The Chief Executive also notes the Committee's positive messages around joint working with the UK in relation to pandemic planning, as well as improvements in crisis response which have been notable in the Government's quick responses to more recent significant events, such as Storm Ciaran and the Haut du Mont tragedy.

Risk assessment and decision rationale

Recommendations	**Risk of non-implementation**	**Risk profile** *(E,H,M, L)*	**Other considerations in prioritisation**	**Is the recommendation agreed?**	**Improvement theme** *(If applicable)*
R1: The Chief Executive Officer should consider conducting a review of COVID-19 recommendations by the end of 2026 to see if any have been closed prematurely and to take the appropriate action.	If a review of Covid-19 recommendations is not undertaken, then there may not be additional assurance that the recommendations have been implemented appropriately.	Low	All recommendations arising from reviews related to Covid-19 pandemic have already been monitored via the established corporate tracking process. This process does not validate the implementation of every recommendation but includes a review of whether rationales provided for closure appear reasonable. Further to this process, the PAC has undertaken this review and not identified any specific issues, therefore the proportionality of reviewing a large number of closed actions is challenged, given the resource this would require. In addition, recommendations related to Covid-19 recommendations have already been incorporated into the Crisis Resilience Improvement Plan.	Not Agreed. Further to considerations already outlined, the Government of Jersey has strengthened collaboration with the UK and other jurisdictions, as outlined in the Chief Executive's letter to the Committee dated 11th February 2026.	No action at this time.
R2: The Jersey Resilience Forum should consider participating in additional emergency exercises across a	The risk of this recommendation not being implemented means that plans for all scenarios may not be validated and	Low	This recommendation forms part of emergency planning core responsibilities. A dedicated resource is assigned to deliver Exercises based on a range of scenarios which are prioritised by the position on the Jersey Emergency Risk Register. Preparing	Agreed in principle – under way or complete. Whilst we agree that Exercises should be prioritised across a range of scenarios, it is incorrect to suggest we are not already actively delivering the recommendation. Exercising forms part of business as usual for	No additional action at this time as this is business as usual for

range of scenarios to further test and strengthen Jersey emergency resilience.	commanders may not be exposed to as extensive exercising in a safe learning environment compared to had they had opportunities to replay multiple scenarios. If a scenario is risk assessed, prioritised, planned for, but ultimately not exercised, we may be unable to establish any gaps in planning arrangements and a lack of understanding of impact and response arrangements which would leave us less resilient.		for and deploying scenario exercises is a resource-hungry activity. The extent to which these scenarios are then tested is based on a risk and likelihood basis, so that those most likely to occur are rehearsed and iterated from learning. Although some scenarios are less likely, they are still planned for but may be tested less often, for a number of reasons, which may include the proportionality of repeatedly extracting senior stakeholders from their day-to-day roles. Notwithstanding, there is significant overlap between scenarios in senior officer involvement, and a great degree of experience will be brought to any such emergency scenario, should it materialise.	emergency preparedness, which has a substantive and permanent officer establishment. Exercises are prioritised in order to concentrate on the highest emergency risks. and a dedicated resource is appointed to focus on Training, Exercising and Learning. This approach will ensure that the island remains as resilient as is proportionate and necessary. In addition, the new proposed law will obligate collaboration in Emergency preparedness. The current approach to number and frequency of exercises is deemed to be proportionate to the resource requirement for preparation and deployment of any specific exercise. The Emergency Planning team will monitor this this situation and will recommend undertaking additional scenario exercises as appropriate.	the Emergency Planning team.
R3: The Chief Executive Officer and Treasurer of the States should consider reviewing the appropriate level of financial reserves required to respond to emergency scenarios, particularly in the event of a significant shock to the financial services sector by the end of 2026.	If the levels of reserves are not sufficient, then there may be a risk that public finances are not sustainable, particularly in times of crisis.	Extreme	Allocations to Reserves is not a decision for the Chief Executive and the Treasurer, but is reserved for the Council of Ministers, and ultimately the States Assembly, as part of its strategic financial and Budget planning. Fiscal advice from Officers will continue to be to take a prudent approach to allocations and levels of Reserves. In addition, current work to review the public service architecture will generate options for the incoming COM that will support reducing GoJ expenditure which could enable allocations to Reserves.	Agreed in principle – under way or complete. As noted in the previous column, Officer advice continues to be prudent in respect of levels of expenditure and Reserves, however committing to action to increase reserves is a decision reserved for Ministers.	Review of public service architecture

Prioritised improvement plan:

Action theme	Actions	Linked Recs	Target date	Responsible Officer
Review of public service architecture	• Undertake a review of the public service architecture and develop policy options for the Council of Ministers to consider that will include a consideration of the blueprint for arm's length organisations and those supported by GoJ with the object of reducing costs and duplication of services.	3	End July 2027	Chief Officer, Cabinet Office