



States Assembly Appointments - updated

Overview

This Briefing Paper explores the appointment of Ministers and Chairs of Committees and Panels, including analysis of such appointments following the General Elections of 2005 to 2026, and the re-formation of the Council of Ministers in 2024. It outlines the process of appointments under Standing Orders of the States of Jersey and highlights data concerning the contention of portfolios and chairs of committees and panels.



Introduction

The Ministerial System of government was established by the [States of Jersey Law 2005](#) and requires the appointment of a Chief Minister and at least 7 Ministers to form a Council of Ministers. The Council of Ministers, and Ministers individually, hold political and legal responsibility for the Government of Jersey.

Standing Order 117 sets out the selection process for Ministers, while Article 1 of the [States of Jersey \(Ministerial Offices\) Order 2022](#) (as at 14 July 2026) identifies the Ministerial offices as:

- Children and Families;
- Education and Lifelong Learning;
- Environment;
- External Relations;
- Health and Social Services;
- Minister for Housing;
- Minister for Infrastructure;
- Minister for International Development;
- Minister for Justice and Home Affairs;
- Minister for Planning and Regulation
- Minister for Social Security;
- Minister for Sustainable Economic Development;
- Minister for Treasury and Resources.

Ministerial portfolios can be changed by Ministerial Order from the Chief Minister, subject to notice being given to the Assembly as described within Article 29A of the [States of Jersey Law 2005](#).



Part 7 of Standing Orders requires that the States Assembly establish Committees and Panels to carry out review and scrutiny of the work of the Council of Ministers and Government of Jersey, as well as administering the procedures of the States of Jersey. These include:

- Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC)
- Public Accounts Committee (PAC)
- Scrutiny Panels
- Planning Committee
- Scrutiny Liaison Committee (previously Chairmen's Committee)

This Briefing Paper reviews the appointment of Ministers and Chairs to PPC, PAC, Scrutiny Panels and President of the Scrutiny Liaison Committee (Chairmen's Committee) following the 2005 to 2026 General Elections, and re-formation of the Council of Ministers following the passing of the [Vote of No Confidence: Chief Minister](#) (P.1/2024) (VONC) proposition in January 2024.

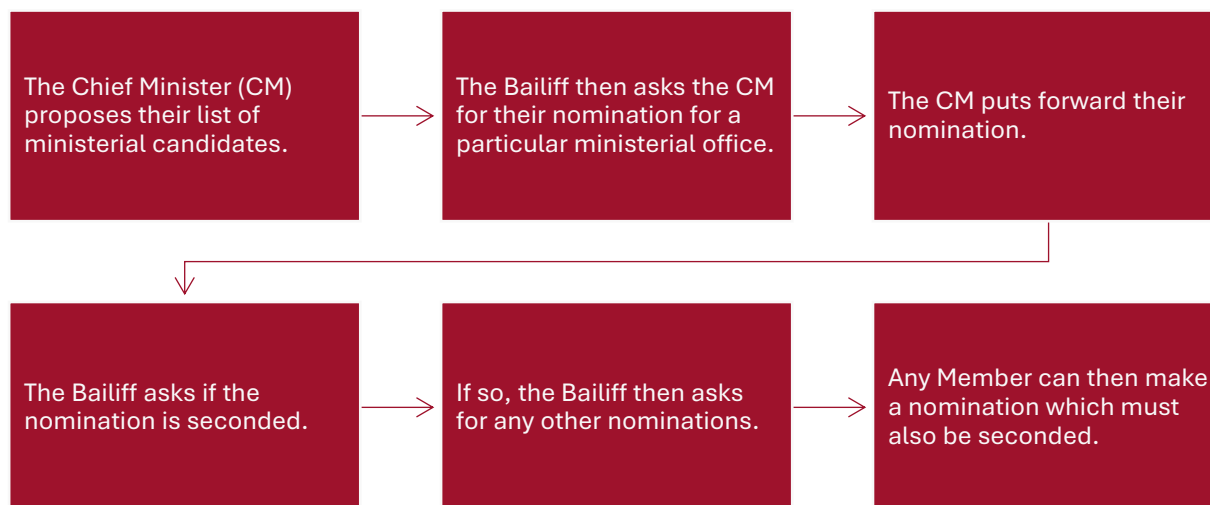
Procedures of nomination and appointment

In the first meetings of the States Assembly after a general election the newly elected States Members follow an appointment process to agree upon who will be appointed to each role. The Standing Orders of the States of Jersey state the precise order in which appointments must be made.

It is possible for any elected member – whether Connétable, Deputy or Senator – to be Chief Minister. Those who wish to be considered for the role by the Assembly must submit a nomination in writing to the Greffier of the States 5 clear working days prior to the meeting at which the appointment is made.

The nomination must be supported and signed by at least 6 other elected members and the candidate must provide their vision for a strategic policy for the Island and describe how they would discharge their duties if successfully appointed. The Assembly votes upon the appointment of the Chief Minister at its first meeting.

In the second meeting of the newly elected States Assembly, the Chief Minister designate selects their preferred Council of Ministers. This process is initiated before the meeting, when the Chief Minister designate provides the Greffier of the States with a declaration (no later than 9.30 am on the working day before the meeting) setting out the States Members they wish to nominate for each Ministerial office. During the States meeting -



Voting for the Chief Minister and Ministers takes place following each candidate speaking and answering questions from the Assembly. Standing Orders were updated in 2017 to ensure that uncontested nominees are still required to speak and answer questions put forward by the Assembly. If the appointment is contested –

- any candidates that are not speaking or answering questions must be sequestered
- the candidate that receives more than half of the votes cast is appointed
- if no candidate has more than half of the votes, the candidate with the lowest number of votes is withdrawn from the contest and another vote is held.

Should the Chief Minister's candidate lose the vote, the Chief Minister is permitted to revise their list of remaining candidates and make changes to proposed portfolios as required.

Additional rules for voting are explained in Part 6 of [Standing Orders](#).

In 2026, a new Ministerial portfolio: Planning and Regulation, was established by Order on 14th July (for more information on portfolio developments since 2005 see [Briefing Paper: Ministerial Roles - timeline](#)).

Appointments to the following roles are then made at the same meeting:

- Chair of the PPC
- Chair of the PAC
- Chairs of Scrutiny Panels
- Chair of the Planning Committee

The following roles are then appointed at the next States meeting:

- President of the Scrutiny Liaison Committee (previously Chairmen's Committee)
- Membership of PPC
- Elected membership of PAC
- Members of Scrutiny Panels
- Members of the Planning Committee



- States Commissioners of the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission

This Briefing Paper also reviews the appointment of Chairs to PPC, PAC, Scrutiny Panels and President of the Scrutiny Liaison Committee (previously the Chairmen's Committee). A similar process for appointment is undertaken for these roles, in which nominations are made by a Member of the Assembly followed by candidates speaking and answering questions from the Assembly. Voting is taken to ascertain a majority consensus on the appointment, should more than one nomination be made.

Analysis of appointments

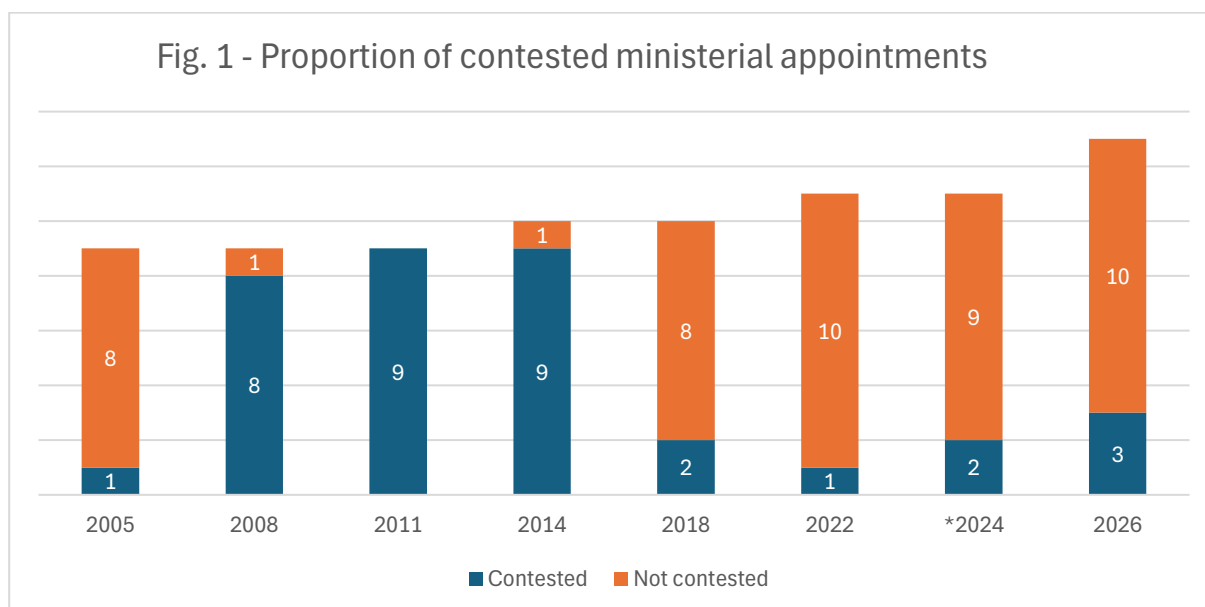
During the seven previous terms, there have been **150** roles filled (Chief Ministers, Ministers, Chairs or Presidents) following General Elections. Of these, **41** roles have been contested within the Assembly prior to appointment. Following the 2024 re-formation of the Council of Ministers there were **12** ministerial roles and **4** nominations for Chairs - PAC and 3 Scrutiny Panels. Of the **16** roles, **5** were contested.

Ministers

The role of Chief Minister has been contested in all but two of the terms (2014 and 2026), otherwise **2** nominations are generally put forward for the CM role, except for 2024 when **3** Members contested for the role of Chief Minister following the VONC.

Of the **82** nominations for Ministers made by a Chief Minister, **35** have been contested within the Assembly.

The 2005 and 2026 Assemblies saw the fewest number of contested Ministerial appointments. Figure 1 shows the number of contested appointments, excluding those for Chief Minister.



*Council of Ministers reconstituted following a successful VONC

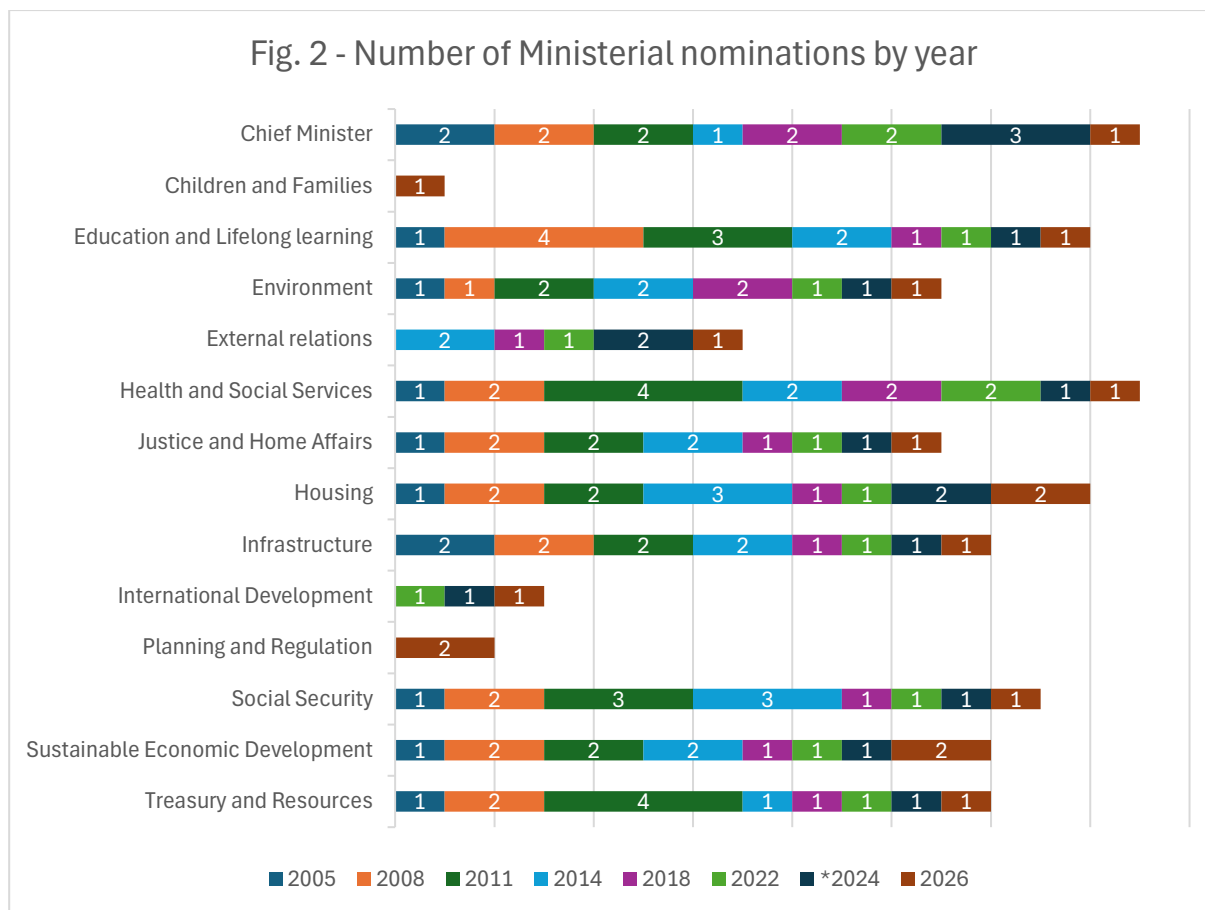
Upon further examination the most contested Ministerial Portfolios have been –

- Minister for Health and Social Services



- Minister for Education (including Sports and Culture prior to 2018)
- Minister for Social Security
- Minister for Infrastructure (previously Transport and Technical Services)

Figure 2 outlines the number of nominations for each Ministerial Portfolio, broken down by year. Only one nomination in any year indicates an uncontested appointment.



*Council of Ministers re-formed following a successful VONC

NOTE - the Minister for External Relations was established in 2014, the Minister for International Development was established in 2018, and the Minister for Planning and Regulation was established in 2026.

In general, the Assembly has appointed the ministerial nominations made by the Chief Minister. However, in 4 of the 8 elections mentioned below 6 ministerial appointments were made against the Chief Minister's nomination. The Table below shows those instances in which the Assembly selected the Ministerial nominee standing against the Chief Minister's choice.

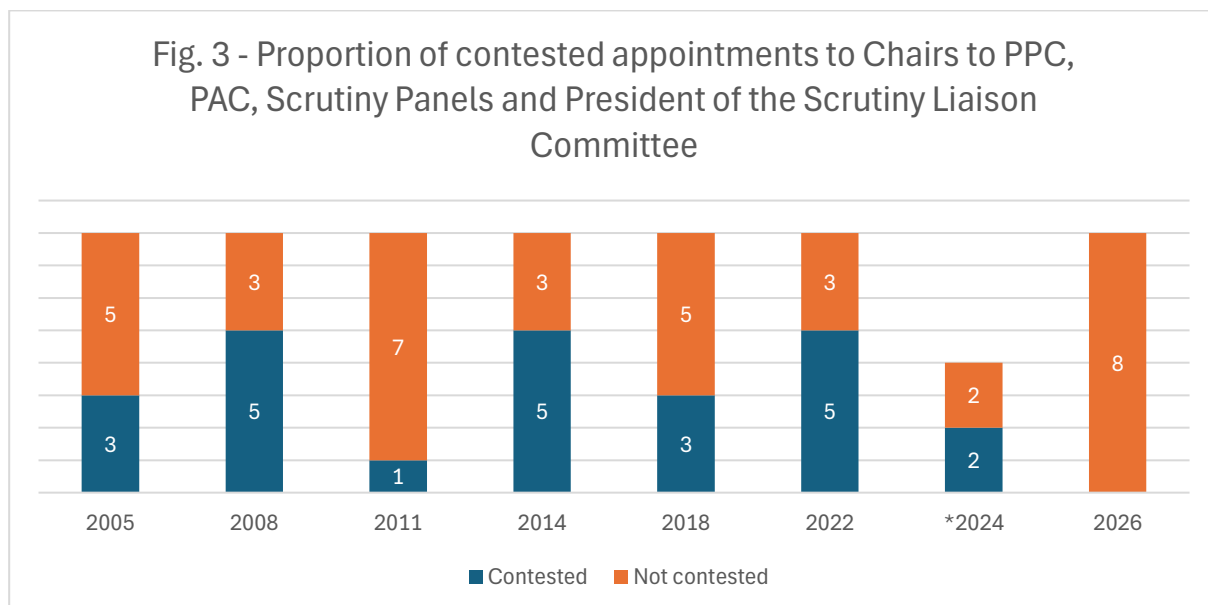


Year	Appointments against Chief Minister's nomination
2026	None
2024*	None
2022	None
2018	Minister for the Health and Social Services
2014	None
2011	Minister for Treasury and Resources Minister for Transport and Technical Services
2008	Minister for Education, Sport and Culture Minister for Health and Social Services
2005	Minister for Transport and Technical Services

*Council of Ministers re-formed following a successful VONC

Committees and Panels

Over the seven political terms there have been **60** appointments to Chairs of PPC, PAC, Scrutiny Panels and President of the Scrutiny Liaison Committee (previously the Chairmen's Committee) including the post-VONC appointments of **4** chairs in 2024. **24** of these have been contested by two or more nominated members as shown in Figure 3. 2026 was the only year when none of the Committee or Panel chairs were contested.



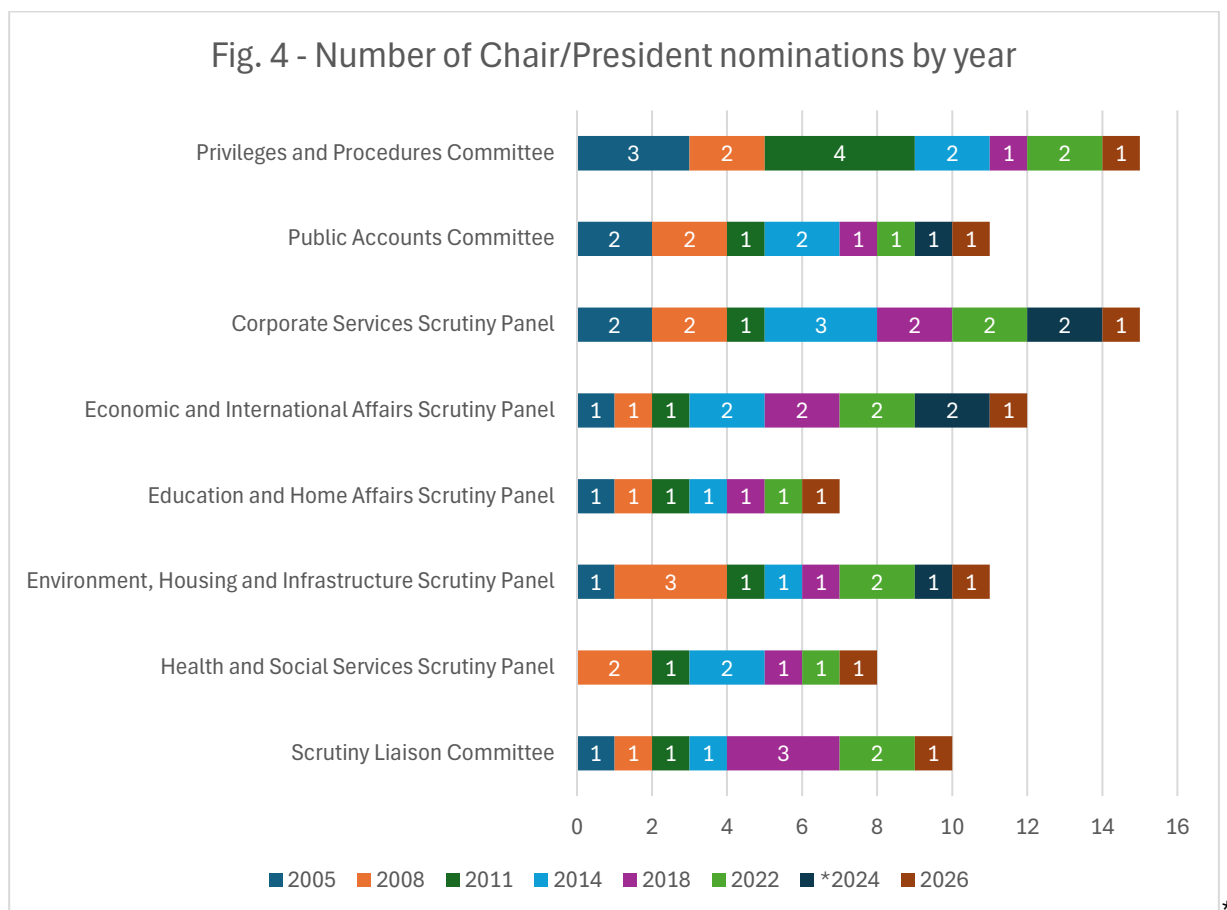
*Only 4 Chairs were appointed in 2024 due to vacancies following the re-formation of the Council of Ministers after the VONC.

As with Ministerial appointments, some Committee and Panel leadership positions are more contested than others. The Chairs of PPC and the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel have been the most contested, having been contested in five of the seven terms (excluding 2024); conversely



the nomination of the Chair of the Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel has not been opposed in any Assembly.

Figure 4 shows the nominations for the leadership position of the Committee or Panel broken down by year. Those years with only one nomination indicate uncontested appointments.



Only the Chairs of –

- Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Panel
- Economic and International Affairs Panel
- Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel
- Public Accounts Committee

were vacated following the re-formation of the Council of Ministers in 2024.

Further reading:

- [Standing Orders of the States of Jersey](#)
- [States of Jersey Law 2005](#)