WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY H.L. JEUNE OF ST. JOHN, ST. LAWRENCE AND TRINITY
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2026
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2026

Question

"In relation to outcome-based accountability across Government, will the Chief Minister explain –

(a) how the Common Strategic Priorities will be linked to Island outcomes, with baselines and targets;
(b) who is accountable when an outcome is not improving and what happens as a result;
(c) how often Island outcome indicators are updated and how external data is collected for inclusion in the analysis; and
(d) when and how progress against outcomes, rather than just activities, will be published?"

Answer

The arrangements for performance management of the Common Strategic Policy priorities include monitoring the inputs, outputs and outcomes of each. The Executive Leadership Team will receive an update on each of the 46 actions each month. Individual Ministers will hold officials to account for the delivery of their specific priorities, and the Council of Ministers will review overall performance on at least a quarterly basis. This is in addition to the publication of the Island Outcome Indicators (IOIs) and Service Performance Measures (SPMs) and other performance information described at parts (c) and (d) below.

Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) is an approach to planning and assessing policies, programmes and services. It distinguishes between:

- population-level outcomes, which describe the long-term improvements sought for citizens and which are assessed through population indicators; and
- service-level performance, which measures how effectively public services are delivered and assessed through three questions: How much did we do? How well did we do it? Is anyone better off?

OBA informed the development of the Future Jersey vision and the ten Island Outcomes. These are supported by the Jersey Performance Framework, which comprises:

- Island Outcome Indicators (IOIs), which monitor long-term changes in the Island Outcomes and Jersey's community, economic and environmental wellbeing
- Service Performance Measures (SPMs), which monitor the performance of government departments and services.

OBA is not a statutory requirement or the only approach to policy development. It is available to ministers and officers where appropriate. Separately, the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2019 requires the Council of Ministers to take sustainable wellbeing into account when preparing the Budget.

(a) The Common Strategic Policy 2026-30 identifies the Island Outcomes that its priorities are intended to influence.

The IOIs provide baseline trends against which Jersey's progress can be assessed, together with the ambition or desired direction for each Indicator. They are not performance targets for individual Government interventions.

(b) Ministers are accountable for policy decisions and priorities. Departments are accountable, within their respective responsibilities, for the resources they use and the delivery and performance of their policies and services.

Government can contribute to the Island Outcomes through the delivery of public services but does not control all the factors influencing them because progress also depends on individuals, businesses and wider circumstances. As such, we would not expect Government action to produce an immediate change in every IOI as they often measure complex, long term trends, and the effects of policy interventions may take time to become visible.

Where an Island Outcome is not improving this may prompt examination of the underlying causes, the effectiveness of existing interventions and whether changes to policy, priorities or delivery are needed.

(c) Statistics Jersey maintains and publishes the Island Outcome Indicator dashboard using data from Statistics Jersey, government departments and public authorities (e.g. Natural Environment and crime statistics) and external organisations (such as for water and energy consumption).

The IOIs are updated as new data become available. The frequency varies according to the underlying data source. Some are updated annually while others depend on periodic surveys (such as the Jersey Opinions and Lifestyle Survey) or the census (for one indicator). Statistics Jersey maintains a schedule of expected releases and updates the IOIs when new data becomes available.

The IOIs themselves are also periodically reviewed to ensure that they remain relevant and proportionate, most recently through a comprehensive refresh of the Indicators in 2024.

(d) Progress towards the Island Outcomes is published through the Island Outcome Indicators dashboard, which shows long-term trends and whether indicators are moving in the desired direction.

SPMs and their targets are published for departments in their Department Business Plans, with performance reported annually through Department Annual Reports accompanying the Annual Report and Accounts. Some departments also publish more frequent performance information and may also maintain a range of other performance measures.

Together, these show how Jersey is changing over time and how effectively Government services are performing.