WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY C.S. ALVES OF ST. HELIER CENTRAL
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2026
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2026

Question

"Will the Chief Minister advise why fewer Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and responses have been published to date in 2026 than in previous years, and will he explain why the wording on the Government's website has been changed from, "We publish anonymised requests and responses on our website. Once information is issued to you in response to your FOI request, it is then considered to be publicly available." to, "After we respond, we may publish your request and response."; and will he further advise whether this change reflects a change in policy regarding the publication of FOI requests and responses?"

Answer

There has been no change in policy.

2026 has seen a significant reduction in the number of requests received compared with 2025. The reduced volumes are being analysed but likely relate to operational improvements, including increased proactive publication of data as well as processes to identify enquiries that are customer service questions for departments rather than FOI requests for information held. Responses provided to requestors continue to be published.

The change in the website wording was to bring it into line with existing internal practice. There is no legal requirement under the Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011 to publish FOI responses. However, the Government of Jersey chooses to publish most FOI responses proactively, as part of its commitment to openness and transparency.